A lament : 'What have they done to my mom?'

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Gloria schedule in US jampacked

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—President Macapagal-Arroyo will arrive in this capital city on Sunday, Nov. 18, two days after delivering a speech before the United Nations in New York and visiting the ruins of the World Trade Center, site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

GLORIA/ A17

BY LEAH SALTERIO

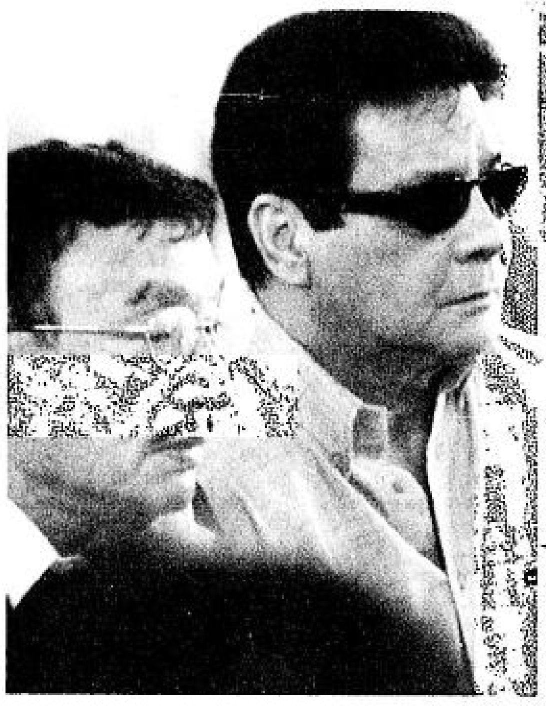
THE KING of comedy, Dolphy, and the King of Philippine Movies, Fernando Poe Jr., wept when they buried their queen yesterday afternoon.

At the gravesite, her only child, Katherine Torres, wailed, "What have they done to my mom?" A mom who loved to surprise her.

Long after the blood of slain actress Nida Blanca had dried in the car where her body was found exactly a week earlier, tears continued to flow at her final resting place at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

The mourners—including Blanca's immediate family, relatives, friends, fellow show biz

NIDA/ A16



MOVIE kings, Dolphy and Fernando Poe Jr., weep for their queen.

THE FACE of grief is etched in the heart of the late actress' mother, Inocencia Acueza.

"THE DOORS of heaven will open up for you," goes the poem of Nida Blanca's nephew and the prayer of her husband Rod Strunk, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (partly hidden), daughter Katherine Torres, close friends, Maricel Soriano, Nova Villa and Nestor de Villa, her co-star in 45 song-and-dance movies. *(More pictures on Page A16)*

VAL HANDUMON

GMA serious on kidnaps

Ramadan: No food, no drink, no sex by day

BY SAMIRA ALI GUTOC
Contributor

CAN fasting for 12 hours a day really be enjoyable?

Non-Muslims only associate the holy month of Ramadan to fasting. But to the Muslim faithful, Ramadan, which starts today (upon sighting of the moon), is cause for thanksgiving.

The first day of Ramadan (*pugang*) is actually declared by religious leaders based on visual sighting of the moon. Thus its start is not fixed in advance and can vary from country to country.

In the Philippines, religious leaders announce the start of Ramadan based on the declaration of either Saudi Arabia or Malaysia. This is why some will start the fast today, others tomorrow.

RAMADAN/ A18

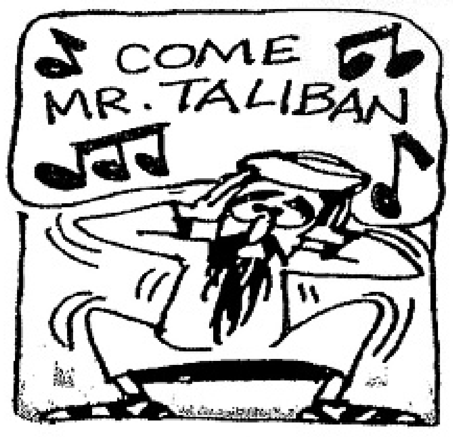
Scavenger wills $1-M estate to honor NY dead

MINNEAPOLIS—He rolled his cart briskly down the alleys, a spry little old man in well-worn sneakers, searching for things to salvage or sell: a broken TV, cast-off toys, a discarded door. To Joe Temeczko, these were treasures.

Over the decades, he filled his home with his finds: stacks of albums and boom boxes, cartons of china and appliances, and TV sets in every room. He did not believe in waste.

Temeczko bought day-old bread and read the

PAUPER/ A18

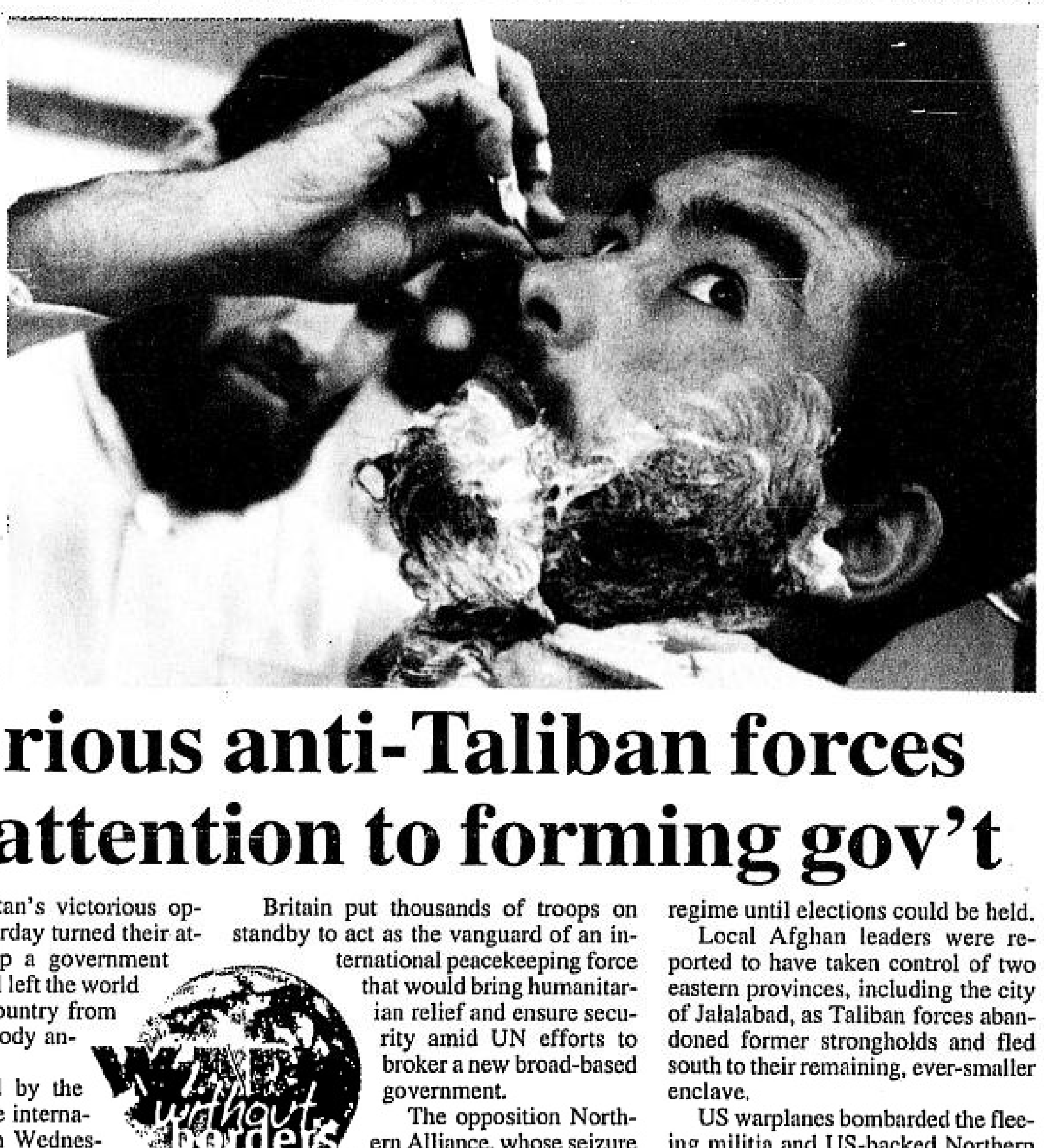


Bin Laden bomb song a smash hit

LAS VEGAS—"Come Mr. Taliban, hand over Bin Laden . . . Colin Powell going to bomb his home." President Bush accompanies the US secretary of state on a large drum.

This is the animated version of a patriotism-fueled parody song, "The Bin Laden Bomb Song," sung to the tune of

BIN/ A18



SMALL but telling declarations of independence: Barbers are back in business in the Taliban-free Afghan capital of Kabul. "This feels so good," says a young Afghan who hates his beard because "It was always itchy." He has his first shave after five years (at right). Where women were ordered to cover themselves with tent-like robes called burqas, this woman (above) has flipped her head covering to show her face in public for the first time since the Taliban rule began in 1996.

REUTERS

Victorious anti-Taliban forces turn attention to forming gov't

KABUL—Afghanistan's victorious opposition forces yesterday turned their attention to setting up a government after the fall of Kabul left the world racing to stop the country from falling back into bloody anarchy.

Caught off-guard by the capture of Kabul, the international community on Wednesday scrambled to help form a broad-based Afghan government amid fears a power vacuum could revive bloody feuding in the capital.

Britain put thousands of troops on standby to act as the vanguard of an international peacekeeping force that would bring humanitarian relief and ensure security amid UN efforts to broker a new broad-based government.

The opposition Northern Alliance, whose seizure Tuesday of Kabul confirmed it as the most powerful of Afghanistan's rival factions, said it would support UN involvement in an interim regime until elections could be held.

Local Afghan leaders were reported to have taken control of two eastern provinces, including the city of Jalalabad, as Taliban forces abandoned former strongholds and fled south to their remaining, ever-smaller enclave.

US warplanes bombarded the fleeing militia and US-backed Northern Alliance troops prepared to assault Kunduz, the Taliban's last bastion in the north.

VICTORIOUS/ A18

US, British, Israeli, HK help sought

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN, GERALD G. LACUARTA AND GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

FINALLY, the government is listening and taking the kidnapping problem seriously. So seriously that President Macapagal-Arroyo is seeking foreign help in dealing with the menace.

In a move to reassure businessmen worried about the sharp rise in kidnappings, President Macapagal yesterday said she would ask the United States, Britain and Israel to train local police in going after kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

Speaking before the 27th Philippine Business Conference, Ms Macapagal said she would also deploy battle-hardened Marines as well as members of the PNP Special Action Force in Metro Manila after they have finished off the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

"I can hardly wait for the Marines and the Special Action Force to arrive in Manila," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she had asked former Interior Secretary and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim to serve as a "full-time" consultant of the National Anti-Crime Commission.

The rise in kidnappings has prompted a major PNP revamp. Ms Macapagal said she had reinstated PNP Director Edgardo Aglipay as head of the National Capital Region Police Office because the incidence of kidnappings was low

GMA/ A17

Top cops deny 'jueteng' raps; PNP sets probe

OFFICIALS whom Sen. Panfilo Lacson has accused of receiving protection money from "jueteng" lords yesterday issued various denials and challenged him to present proof.

Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, also aired a piece of "unsolicited advice" to the senator: "If he wants to stay long in politics, he should not indulge in the politics of getting even."

Wycoco likewise said in a press statement that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had confirmed the existence of Lacson's accounts in American banks.

He warned that the government would take "legal preemptive steps" against those who were "systematically" trying to destroy its credibility.

Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police told reporters at a news conference in Camp Crame that he had ordered the PNP officials named to submit a "written explanation."

Mendoza conceded that Lacson "may have some basis of his own" in making the exposé, but added: "We trust that the good senator will share the rest of the information with us and

TOP/ A19

Second FRONT PAGE

MATINDI ANG AWAY.!!

SC fails to settle Sandigan row

Garchitorena, Badoy told to file charges against each other

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court, unable to settle a feud between two Sandiganbayan justices, has ordered the magistrates to file formal charges against each other within 48 hours.

The high tribunal yesterday told Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. to submit their respective charges by Thursday.

The order by the court, which was made Tuesday but released on Wednesday, confirmed reports that the SC had failed to make Garchitorena and Badoy reconcile during a four-hour dialogue on Monday.

The high court directed the two "to submit in due form, if they so desired, their respective formal charges against each other within 48 hours after notice of this resolution."

The court said the charges should be filed with the SC oversight committee "which shall, in due course, take appropriate action thereon."

Gag order stays

In the meantime, the high court said, the gag order it issued on the two justices stays.

"Until further orders, the Chief Justice's Nov. 6 memorandum directing Garchitorena and Badoy to desist from holding press conferences, issuing press statements or giving interviews to the media on the controversy between (them) shall remain effective, and any violation thereof shall be severely dealt with," the SC said.

The SC issued the resolution after Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. made an oral report to the full court on Tuesday.

Davide told the SC that Garchitorena and Badoy "were each given sufficient time to air their grievances against each other."

But, instead of resolving the justices' conflict, the dialogue was described as "highly spirited" by INQUIRER sources and ended without any clear resolution of the feud.

Davide hosted the dialogue, which the two other members of the Sandiganbayan Third Division which Badoy chairs—Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde—attended.

Members of the oversight committee, which is in charge of the administrative and non-judicial functions of the high court and is headed by Senior Associate Justice Joshue Bellosillo, were also present.

Garchitorena has accused Badoy of incompetence and absenteeism, and discredited him in a letter to Davide last month.

Badoy, whose division is handling the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, accused Garchitorena of trying to make him quit his post.

Pressure to quit

Sources said Garchitorena and Badoy exchanged high-spirited arguments during the dialogue. "But they did not talk at the same time. They talked one at a time," a source added.

Badoy was quoted as saying Garchitorena "did not directly tell me to resign... but I am not stupid not to understand what he meant."

He refused to reveal, however, why Garchitorena would want him out of his post.

As head of the Sandiganbayan's First Division, Garchitorena is presiding over the first perjury complaint against Estrada, as well as the graft charges.

Badoy's division is handling the more serious plunder case, the illegal use of alias charge and the second perjury case.

In a letter to Davide on Oct. 11, Garchitorena wrote a lengthy unsolicited personal comment on Badoy.

Garchitorena penned the letter after Davide asked him to comment on Badoy's request for more personnel to be assigned to the Third Division.

Critical observations

Badoy had asked for additional legal personnel, a stenographer, additional researchers who were lawyers and an executive assistant to help him while he was hearing the plunder and other cases pending before his sala.

Garchitorena made a "favorable" recommendation, but made several observations critical of Badoy.

In the four-page letter, he said Badoy "does not need these additional personnel" since presently he has a total of four lawyers, two legal researchers, three stenographers and two executive assistants.

Garchitorena then focused on Badoy's work habits, saying Badoy "hardly does any work" as chairman or as a member of the Third Division.

"He is often absent or comes in very late in the afternoon, often after office hours. In other instances, he has called to ask if there was anything important before deciding to come to office, and he invariably comes very late. In the meantime, cases are postponed," Garchitorena wrote.

Erap sees no fair trial from Badoy

By Volt Contreras

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada said yesterday he cannot expect a fair trial at the Sandiganbayan after Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. promised a civil society group he will be convicted.

Estrada said Badoy, chair of the anti-graft court's Third Division, vowed to convict him before members of Plunder Watch, a group committed to seeing the disgraced president brought to justice.

Badoy allegedly made the pledge at the same press conference on Nov. 4 at Fort Bonifacio, Makati, where he revealed that he was being "pressured" by Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to resign.

The revelation about Garchitorena set off a word war between the two justices that prompted the Supreme Court to intervene.

"I will not fail you," Estrada quoted Badoy as telling Plunder Watch members at the news conference.

Estrada made his statements when asked to assess the progress of his plunder trial before the Third Division.,

"Perhaps under Justice Badoy I cannot get a fair trial. He has insinuated his bias already. When he held the press conference, he was with Plunder Watch (members) whom he assured of my conviction," Estrada said.

"Those people (Plunder Watch) are hungry for my blood," he added.

Teodoro Casiño, a Plunder Watch convenor, laughed off Estrada's claim.

"That's Estrada sowing intrigue again," Casiño said, adding that members of Plunder Watch were not even aware of Badoy's press conference that day.

"I challenge them (Estrada camp) to identify our members who were there, and not just come up with this blind item," he said.

"We've been distancing ourselves from Badoy precisely for this reason," he added.

The plunder trial made little progress yesterday with the resumption of the cross-examination of prosecution witness Carlos Arellano, former Social Security System chair and erstwhile friend of Estrada.

The court again excused Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, from the hearing on the oral request of their lawyers.

The elder Estrada was allowed to leave, but he refused to do so unless the court granted the same privilege to his son—to the confusion of their lawyers.

After more arguments, Jinggoy was allowed to leave with his father.

The two have also been excused from today's hearing—although the justices said they have yet to decide whether to accept the father and son's joint waiver of appearance.

Arellano, as in his previous court appearance, was again made to admit that even without "pressure" or "instructions" from Estrada, the SSS had bought Belle Corp. shares during his chairmanship from June 1998 to early 2001.

Defense lawyer and former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas tried to fault Arellano for "not mentioning" this fact in his affidavit against Estrada.

Arellano also admitted that all of the SSS' transactions with Belle during his tenure were "valid investments" except for the purchase made on Oct. 21, 1999 which "was not ordinary since there was a call" from Estrada.

In earlier testimony, Arellano said Estrada had exerted pressure on him when he called up three times in October 1999 and ordered him to purchase Belle shares in large volumes using SSS funds.

Estrada stands accused of pocketing P189.7 million in commissions from the transaction, which is the basis of the plunder charge against him. The sale was allegedly "arranged" by Jaime Dichaves, an Estrada crony and Belle board member.

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News that makes a difference

Joe de V to act on impeach rap

By Christine O. Avendaño

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia said he will act on the impeachment complaint filed against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto before Friday, when he is scheduled to leave for the United States to join President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit there.

"I will make a decision by (today) and most likely transmit it (the impeachment complaint) to the committees on rules and justice within 48 hours," De Venecia told reporters.

This as the lawyer who filed the impeachment complaint against Desierto said yesterday he had also asked the Ombudsman to investigate Sen. Manuel Villar last April for a "highly irregular" P92-million right-of-way sale made by the senator's company last year.

De Venecia said he has read the impeachment complaint filed last week by Ernesto Francisco Jr., but admitted he still has to go over it and "do my homework" because "we have to be fair and correct."

Francisco accused Desierto of taking a bribe to sit on the investigation of bank transactions involving his client, businessman Luke Roxas, in 1997.

Roxas was the controlling stockholder of the Bank of Southeast Asia, which was being investigated for alleged dealings with a criminal syndicate that stole Petron checks amounting to millions of pesos.

The impeachment complaint was endorsed by Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and transmitted to De Venecia's office by House secretary general Robert Nazareno.

"It has been endorsed by a member of the House and I have to transmit it, but I will do so in the next 48 hours," the Speaker said. "I will not wait for 10 session days. It's too long. We must expedite the (delivery) of justice."

De Venecia has denied Francisco's charge that the House sat on the Petron scam investigation in 1997 after Roxas approached the speaker, who held the post in the 10th Congress as well.

De Venecia said he could not remember meeting Roxas, having met "thousands" of realtors who were in pursuit of housing projects.

The Speaker said the House did investigate the Petron scam, which resulted in the first plunder case filed and won by the government.

He was apparently referring to the conviction early this year of Dominga Manalili, a Bureau of Internal Revenue cashier, who was found guilty of diverting more than P260 million in withholding taxes from the government.

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, then chair of the committee on ways and means that was supposed to probe the Petron scam, said he could not recall if an investigation did push through.

Francisco, in a separate news conference, said De Venecia may have been confused about his information because as far as he (Francisco) knew, the House investigation into the Petron scam did not prosper.

Francisco said he asked Desierto to investigate Villar when the lawyer filed a plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and 14 others on April 16 in connection with the P1.2-billion acquisition of rights-of-way in Parañaque for the Coastal road project.

He said this was because a company owned by Villar, Brittany Corp., had sold a 6,155-sq. m. lot to the government on Nov. 13 last year for P92.3 million, when the tax declaration for the property showed an assessed value of only P2.5 million and a market value of P12.9 million.

"Villar should be investigated to see if his company got the P92 million from the government," Francisco told reporters.

RP wife denies plot to kill Canadian

KUWAIT—The Filipino wife of a Canadian man who was shot dead last month has denied accusations that she conspired to kill him for insurance money, a Philippine Embassy diplomat said Tuesday.

"She says she didn't know about the insurance," the diplomat told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity. "She loved him and they planned to move to Canada."

The diplomat met the wife, Mary Jane Bitos, 26, on Monday.

Previously she has been identified as Vitos.

Kuwaiti police accuse Bitos and six other Filipinos of killing Luc Ethier, a Canadian aircraft technician who worked at an air base. Police say the suspects confessed to killing Ethier to share his insurance money. The case has been referred to the public prosecutors.

Ethier and Bitos were shot as they walked down a street on Oct. 10. He died immediately. She was admitted to hospital with three bullet wounds. She remains in hospital for treatment.

The victim's father, Claude Ethier, told a Canadian newspaper that his son had life insurance policies worth more than 200,000 Canadian dollars.

One of the suspects fled to Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait has asked for his extradition.

The diplomat said Bitos, who had a catering job before she married Ethier in February, was scheduled to have a spine operation.

The shooting was initially thought to be related to the US military operation in Afghanistan and retaliatory threats against Westerners living in this oil-rich state.

Bitos had identified a fundamentalist Kuwaiti man as the gunman, but he denied any involvement and was released.

Tensions are high in the Middle East following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the US-British strikes on Afghanistan. *AP*

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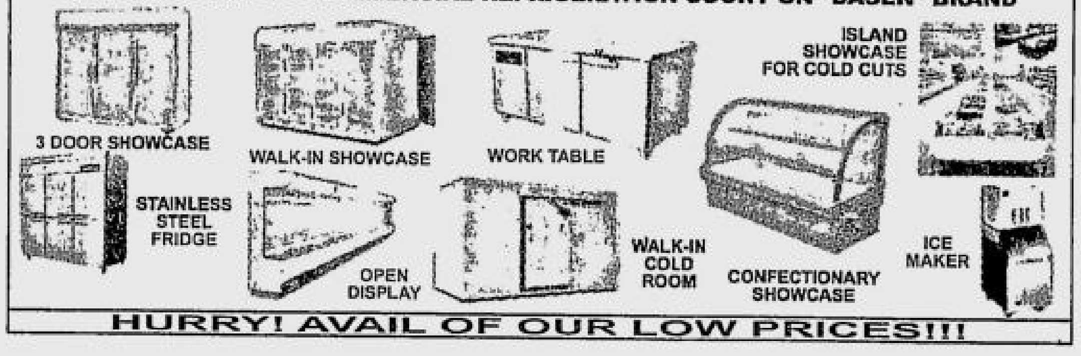

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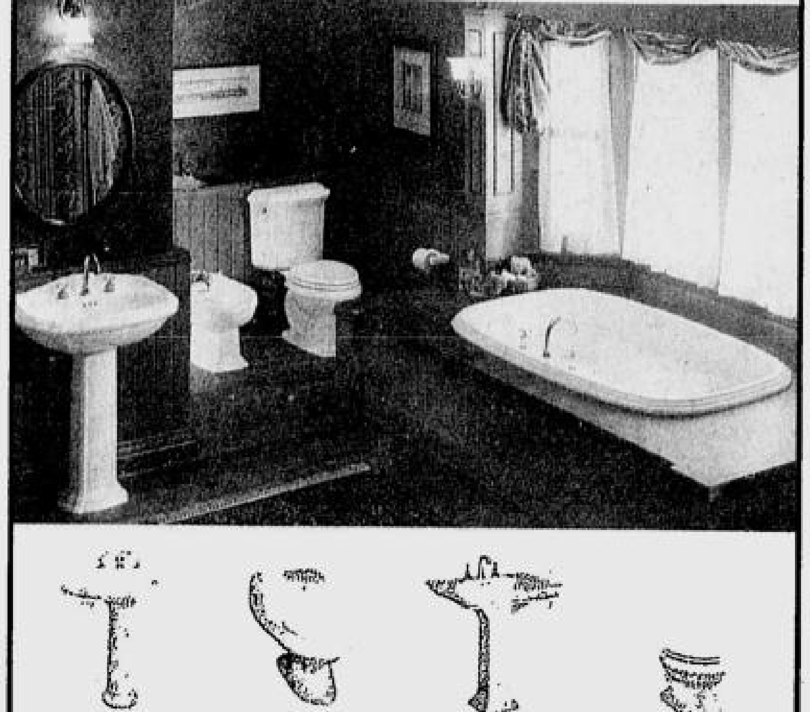

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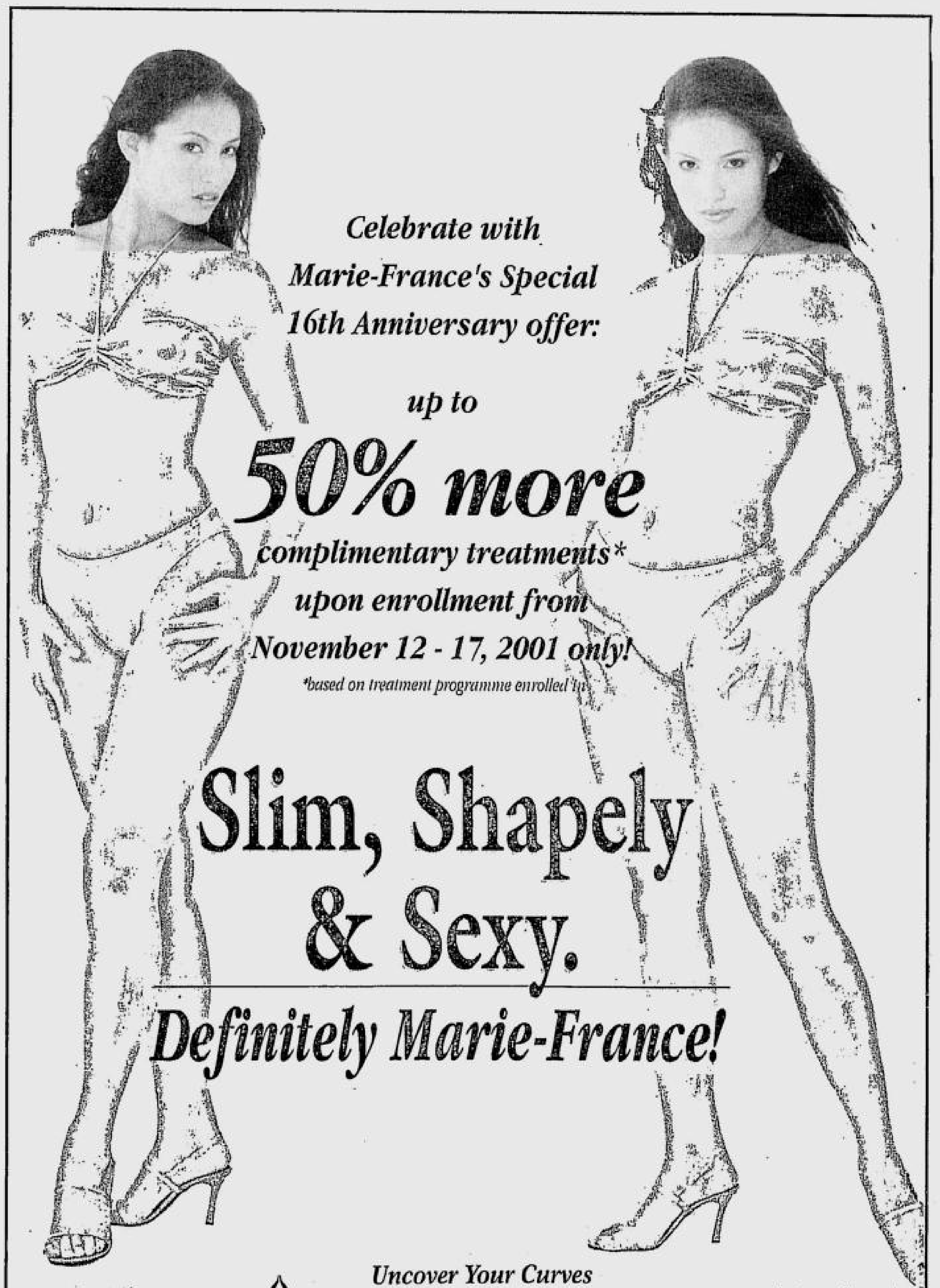

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Blair vows US help vs Abu

'One hostage is too many; we have to finish them off'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The commander-in-chief of United States Forces in the Pacific, Admiral Dennis Blair, yesterday vowed to help the military destroy the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group that is holding two American hostages and restore law and order in the country.

"One hostage is too many, whether it's a US hostage or Philippine or Malaysian hostage. We have to finish this thing off," said Blair, who arrived here amid tight security, escorted by armored personnel carriers and heavily armed troops and police.

"We don't like to see our friend and ally for many years being attacked by this ruthless group which kills people and takes hostages," said Blair as he noted that the two countries were bound by a 50-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty.

Emerging from a three-hour meeting with Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Blair said he was pleased with the Philippine military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and promised more US military assistance.

Details of the assistance would be hammered out during a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and President George W. Bush in Washington next week, officials said.

The US government would help Manila "ensure there is law and order" in the Philippines, destroy the Abu Sayyaf and release all the hostages in nearby Basilan island, Blair said.

But even if there was an immediate need to "annihilate" the bandit group, the safe recovery of hostages was the priority and operations against the Abu Sayyaf should be done with caution, he said.

Blair said that as far as the US was concerned, there was no distinction among the hostages.

"I feel very bad about the Americans, I also feel extremely bad about the eight Philippine citizens who are also hostages. The taking of life or safety is reprehensible and I fully support the Philippines' effort to rescue the hostages and crush this group," Blair said.

He said the visit to Zamboanga and Basilan two weeks ago by about two dozen US military officers was meant to evaluate how the two countries can cooperate against the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf seized the missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, fellow American Guillermo Sobero and 17 Filipinos on May 27.

They claimed to have beheaded Sobero in June as an "Independence Day gift" to the President. His remains were recovered last month.

Blair described Sobero's killing as a "terrible, barbaric act."

He said the US has established that there was indeed a tie between the Abu Sayyaf and the al-Qaida network of international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

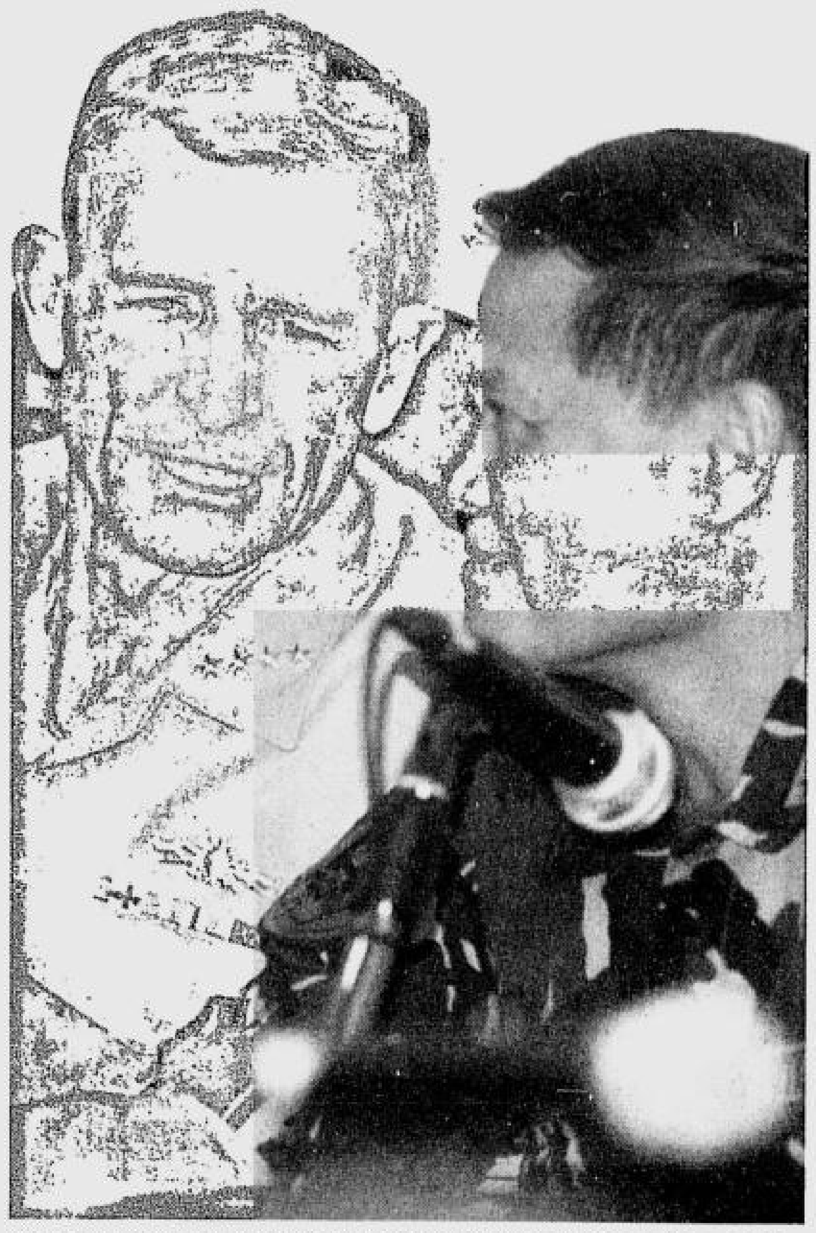
"The historical links presented has been strong and well-proven, with the father and the founder of the Abu Sayyaf having been in Afghanistan and having studied there with (money) coming through the brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden," he said.

Stressing that terrorism affects all countries, Blair said governments in the region, particularly the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, should develop a strong intelligence exchange to counter the menace.

The US-led global campaign against terrorism was not against religion, but was aimed at those behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks and other groups around the world believed to be helping them out, such as the Abu Sayyaf, he said.

The Abu Sayyaf's much-publicized kidnapping spree in recent years has forced many tourists and potential investors to shun the Philippines, resulting in huge economic losses, he noted.

"The people who live in and visit the Philippines should not have to be the subject of danger of kidnapping. So we think it's important that the AFP be successful in taking down this group and rescuing the hostages," he said. ***AFP with a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AP***



GENERALS Dennis Blair and Diomedio Villanueva during a military briefing in Zamboanga.

CHARLIE SACEDA

Gloria off again, this time to US

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo left last night for a nine-day working visit to the United States whose main objective is to solicit Washington's help in fighting homegrown terrorists.

Ms Macapagal, with First Gentleman Juan Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and her official delegation, left at 10 p.m. last night on board a regular Philippine Airlines flight.

The First Couple left soon after a state dinner they gave for visiting Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong.

Ms Macapagal's first stop will be San Francisco where she is to meet with the Filipino community there.

She will then fly to New York City where she will visit Ground Zero—the site of the World Trade Center twin towers destroyed in the Sept. 11 terror attacks—with NY Mayor Rudolph Guiliani.

On Friday, the President will address the United Nations General Assembly. She will talk on the country's fight against terrorism and poverty.

She flies to Washington, D.C. for a meeting with US President George W. Bush on Nov. 20. The two leaders will discuss defense and security issues.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal's message to the US would center on the two governments' common fight against terrorism.

"The President will emphasize that she and her government believe that the war against terrorism should go hand in hand with the war against poverty. This is because the evil, the cruelty of terrorism seeks to develop a mass base among the poorest," Tiglao said.

He said the President would welcome the US help in the war against terrorism and poverty.

Ms Macapagal will inform Bush that the government was succeeding in its "all-out war" against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists; that the Philippines fully supports the US-led coalition against terrorism; that the Philippines initiated the Nov. 5 Asean declaration against terrorism and spearheaded a regional anti-terrorism front with Indonesia and Malaysia, two nations opposed to the US war in Afghanistan; and that the government has succeeded in convincing the biggest Muslim military organizations in the country, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, to reject extremism and to work within the democratic system.

On the eve of her departure, Ms Macapagal met with Admiral Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Command, to discuss the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

She reiterated to Blair the defense department's request for military assistance in the form of more equipment.

While in Washington, she will also meet with US Vice President Richard Cheney, US Cabinet officials and legislators.

Before flying back to Manila, the President will visit Mexico City to address the Mexican Congress and then Los Angeles to meet briefly with the Filipino community.

The official delegation consists of Cabinet secretaries Angelo Reyes, defense; Jose Isidro Camacho, finance; Leonardo Montemayor, agriculture; Manuel Roxas II, trade; Vicente Perez, energy; Noel Cabrera, press; National Security Adviser Roilo Golez; Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr., Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario; senior adviser on international competitiveness Roberto Romulo; Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura; regional development adviser Paul Dominguez; presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao; appointments adviser Marita Jimenez; Senate President Franklin Drilon; Speaker Jose de Venecia; Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste; Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel; Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes; Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla; Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte; Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi; Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico; and Passi Mayor Jefry Palmares.

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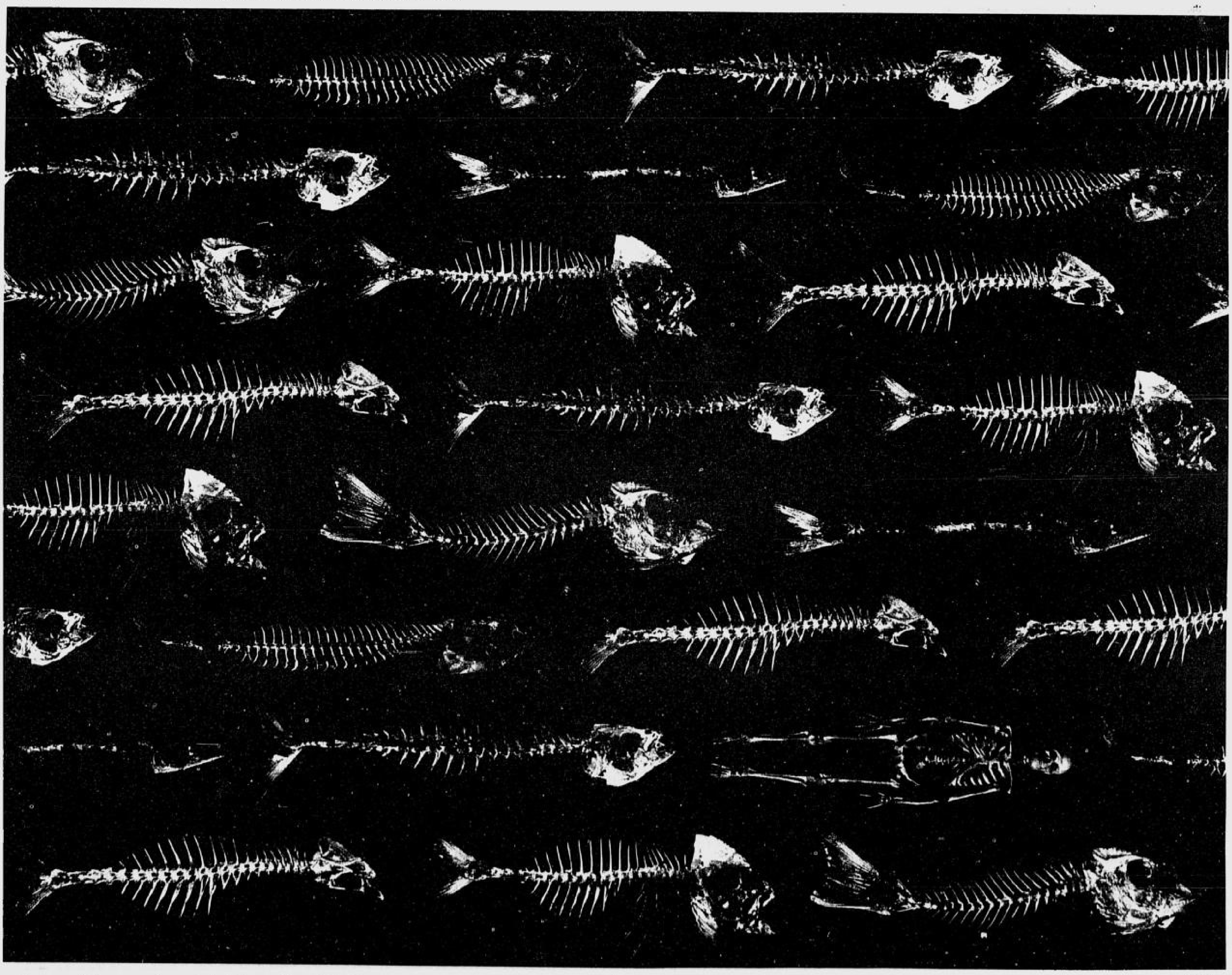

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NO MORE WITNESSES

End of Mike A probe seen

THE SENATE investigation into the alleged involvement of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the alleged P40-million bribery scam could end soon for lack of a witness to prove Arroyo's guilt.

Senate blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday said that the committee may "soon terminate its inquiry if no other witnesses would come out to establish the involvement of the First Gentleman."

Three vital witnesses—Maria Lourdes "Malou" Nuñez, Pacifico Marcelo and Ito Los Baños—have not shown up at the Senate hearing, leaving the probers with nothing to go on with.

The committee has long sought Nuñez and Marcelo but the two could not be located.

Nuñez has already submitted an affidavit denying any involvement in the alleged P40-million bribery attempt to get President Macapagal-Arroyo to recall a veto of two telecommunications franchises.

While Marcelo, the owner of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., one of the telecommunications firms involved, has been issuing statements through media, Sen. Arroyo noted that he has continued to snub the hearings.

The senator said even the National Bureau of Investigation has been unable to locate Marcelo.

The committee held its third hearing yesterday with Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, the former boss of Nuñez, testifying on how the franchises came to be granted to PCCI and APC Wireless Network Inc.

Alvarez confirmed that the transportation department had recommended to the President that she veto the PCCI and APC franchises because their creation would create a monopoly in the industry.

"We recommended that the bills be vetoed on the basis of the findings of the National Telecommunications Commission that the two telecom firms wanted to set up a clearinghouse," Alvarez told the committee.

Alvarez noted that the business plan submitted by the PCCI to the NTC showed that it intended to set up a clearinghouse.

Alvarez also said that he had noted that PCCI and APC had "identical" slate of incorporators.

Also appearing before the committee yesterday were Malacañang secretary Erlinda de Leon and lawyer Raffy Evangelista.

De Leon, a special assistant to the President, testified that she had "no personal knowledge" of Mike Arroyo's involvement in the alleged bribery.

De Leon was tagged by former correspondent secretary Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo as among those named by Nuñez as having received bribe money to work on the recall of the presidential veto on the two franchises.

"I don't know (Nuñez)," De Leon said.

Evangelista said he was merely asked by Rodrigo to inform Ms Macapagal that she was resigning from her job. *Rocky Nazareno*

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Young doctors still volunteer for barrio duty

By Armand N. Nocum

YOUNG Filipino doctors continue to volunteer for work in the barrios—fired by idealism, wanderlust and even by the desire to find a wife.

No matter what their reasons, health department officials said more and more new medical graduates turn up wanting to join the "Doctor to the Barrios (DTTB)" program that then health secretary Sen. Juan Flavier started in 1993.

"Young Filipino doctors do have a heart for public service," Dr. Dorie Lyn Balanoba, project coordinator of the DTTB, said in a press briefing.

She said most of those who join the program do so because they really believe it is a good way to start a career in public health. Others want to experience life in far-off places and still others just want to "look for wives."

The program has to date sent 337 doctors to about 261 municipalities. These are mostly poor municipalities, classified as 5th and 6th class, that have not had any resident government doctors for more than five years.

Settling down

Of the 337, 88 or 26 percent have opted to remain in their areas of assignment, having been hired by the local governments there as municipal health officers.

Quite a number have found local wives.

Balanoba lamented, however, that although there are more applicants than areas available for assignment, the number of potential barrio doctors is generally small.

Last year, she said only 120 young doctors applied out of at least 2,000 doctors who passed the board exams. The 120 were applying for 40 slots in rural areas.

Dr. Kenneth Ronquilo, head of the DOH human resource development bureau, attributed this to the medical schools' emphasis on the need for specialization, which would entail going for post-graduate studies here or abroad.

Eder Mutuc, a volunteer doctor posted in Oriental Mindoro, said parents are partly to blame.

'But why?'

"When I told my parents that I was applying for the DTTB, they asked 'why?'" he said. His parents then suggested that it would be better for him to seek further studies in the United States.

He also faulted the medical school curriculum which is not geared toward public health.

Dr. Pedro Paterno, a DTTB consultant and a former volunteer to the Cordillera region, said that of his batch of 98 medical graduates, 50 are in the US and more than 40 are in Metro Manila.

"Our health education is not training young doctors to go out where they are needed," he said.

Most of the volunteer doctors agree that they have no regrets in deciding to undergo the two-year medical practice in the rural areas.

They said the fulfillment they found in their work more than makes up for their salaries. They are paid P20,000 a month—P27,000 with benefits—an amount considered too small by their counterparts in Metro Manila or the US.

With the success of the DTTB scheme, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has announced that the department was ready to implement the second phase of the program. It will be sending experienced "specialists" to rural areas.

Joe de V bats for clear policy on birth control

By Juliet L. Javellana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday urged the government to make an "unequivocal" policy on birth control, saying the country's economic resources could not catch up with the rapidly expanding population.

The Population Commission said the present 76.5 million Filipinos would double to 113 million in 29 years.

In a speech before a Legislators' Conference on Population at the House, De Venecia said that if necessary, the government has to answer the question of whether it should compel Filipino couples to limit their children to two or three, as some countries have done, to stem population growth.

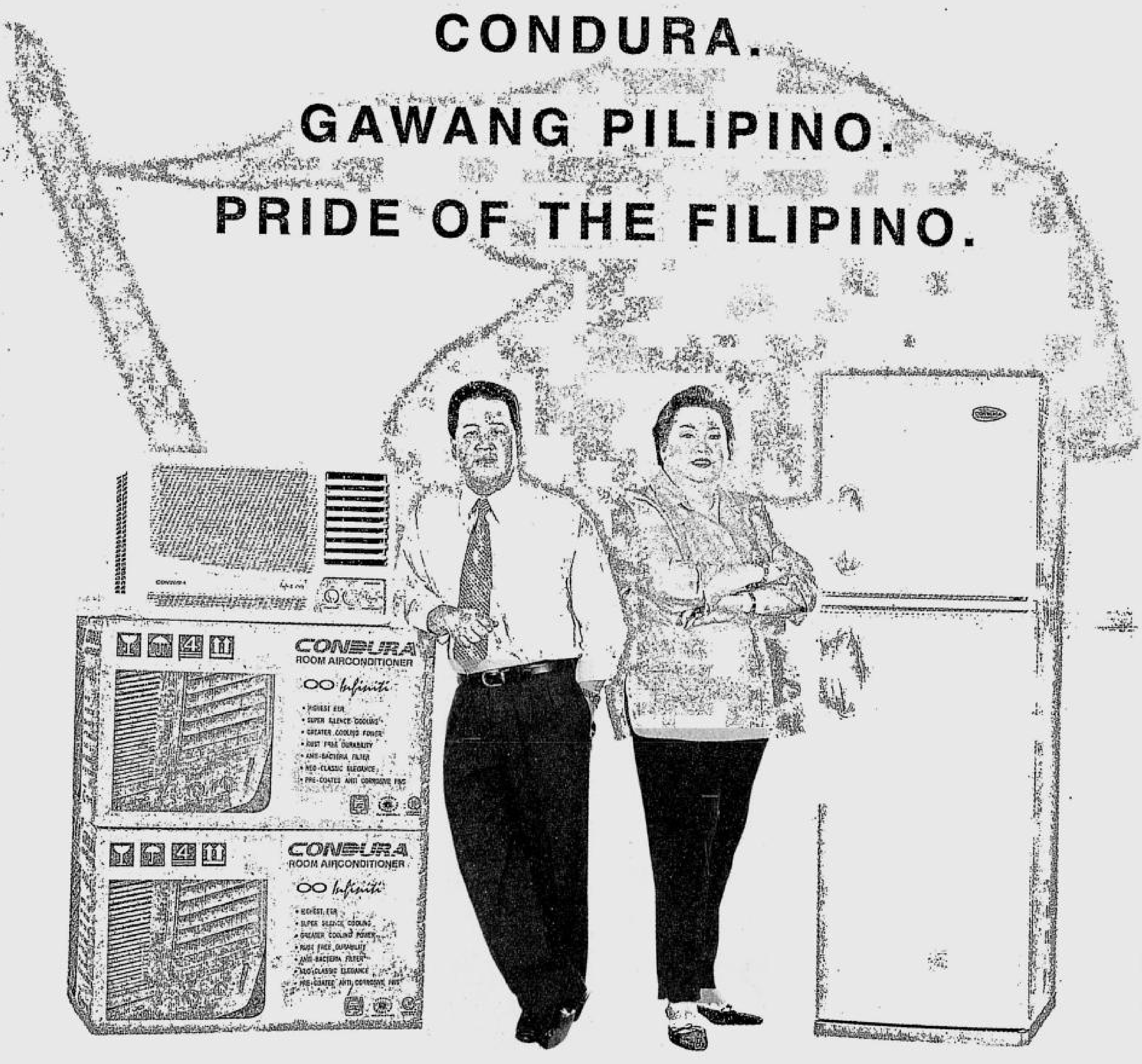
It is about time, he said, the government makes a decision on whether it would actively promote the use of artificial methods of contraception or follow the Catholic Church's stand to allow only natural methods.

But De Venecia quickly stressed that the solution need not put the Church and State into a confrontation.

Asked by reporters later whether he is going against the stand of the Catholic Church, De Venecia said he is "only for methods sanctioned" by the Church such as the rhythm method.

But in his speech, De Venecia batted for a definite policy.

He said the debate over how to control population had been going on long before the present Congress convened or before Church leaders raised objections to the use of artificial methods of contraception.



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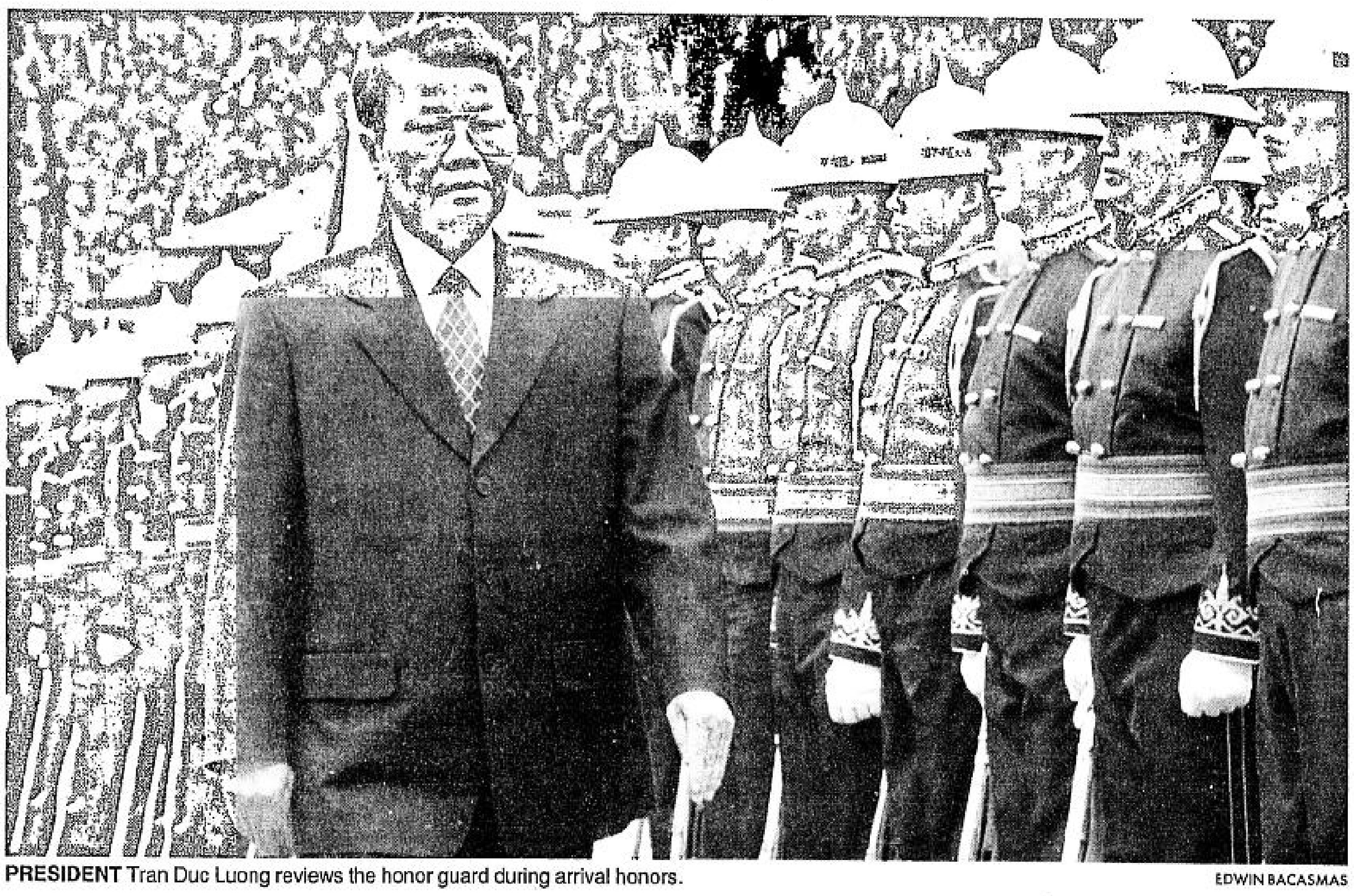

PRESIDENT Tran Duc Luong reviews the honor guard during arrival honors.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Viet president here for visit

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong yesterday agreed to boost economic relations and repatriate Vietnamese refugees in the country.

Tran, who is in the country for a three-day state visit, was accorded full military honors upon arrival in Malacañang at 3 p.m.

During their expanded bilateral talks at the State Dining Room of Malacañang, the two leaders discussed ways to improve trade and strengthen partnership in the fields of science and technology, tourism and defense.

Ms Macapagal said the Vietnam-RP Joint Commission, which will be held in Manila next year will address mutual concerns, including the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees in the country and counter trade.

Tran supported the possible repatriation to a third country of Vietnamese refugees here who do not qualify for Filipino citizenship.

He said his government also fully supported the Philippines' proposal for counter trade.

The Philippines has been importing rice from Vietnam, a major rice-exporting country.

Ms Macapagal also said she looked forward to the Vietnamese government's support on the protection and security of Philippine investments in Vietnam by big Filipino corporations.

Afterwards, the two leaders witnessed the signing of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to income taxes.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho signed the agreement with Deputy Minister of Finance Le Thi Bang Tam.

In a statement following the signing, Ms Macapagal said she looked forward to enhancing relations with Vietnam in the fields of trade and investment, tourism, defense and security.

She said the Philippines has had fruitful exchanges with the government and people of Vietnam since the two nations established diplomatic ties 25 years ago.

Tran meanwhile thanked Ms Macapagal and the Philippine government for the warm hospitality to his delegation, which includes one of Vietnam's four deputy prime ministers, Nguyen Cong Tan.

Tran and his official delegation were honored with a state banquet in Malacañang last night, after which Ms Macapagal was to leave for the United States.

He will visit today the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Laguna.

Afterwards, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. will tender a luncheon at the Champagne Salon of the Manila Hotel, where the Vietnamese leader is billeted.

Tran will also visit Intramuros and meet with the Philippine-Vietnam Business Council and the Vietnamese community here.

He will leave on Nov. 16 for the rest of his tour in Southeast Asia.

Media barred from reporting on money laundering

By Donna S. Cueto

THE NEW Anti-Money Laundering Act has curbed the power of the media to report on suspected money-laundering transactions and sets criminal sanctions for such violations.

Anyone reporting on suspect transactions referred to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for investigation could be charged with "breach of confidentiality" and imprisoned for between three to eight years if convicted.

The AMLC, the body charged with investigating and sanctioning money laundering, is chaired by the central bank governor, with the commissioner of the Insurance Commission and chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission as members.

The penalty for improper reporting is even harsher than that imposed on those convicted of facilitating money laundering, which is only four to seven years of imprisonment.

Under Section 9 (c) of RA 9160, or the Anti-Money Laundering Law, officials or employees of the "covered institutions"—meaning banks, non-banks, quasi-banks, and trust entities—should report to the AMLC any suspected money-laundering transactions, referred to as "covered transactions."

No reporting

But they are prohibited from giving details about the money-laundering activity to anybody, particularly the media.

"Neither may such reporting be published or aired in any manner or form by the mass media, electronic mail, or other similar devices," it said.

The punishment for the "breach of confidentiality" is imprisonment of from three to eight years and a fine of not less than P500,000 but not more than P1 million.

A covered transaction might be a "single, series or combination of transactions involving a total amount of P4 million or an equivalent amount in foreign currency," especially cash deposits and investments having "no credible purpose or origin, underlying trade obligation or contract."

No trial by publicity

The ban on the reporting or leaking to the media of suspect money-laundering transactions was introduced by Sen. Joker Arroyo to prevent investigations from being hampered by publicity.

This would also prevent trial by publicity, said Rep. Oscar Moreno, chair of the House committee on economic affairs.

In this way, an innocent client of a bank or financial institution initially suspected of money laundering would be protected, a primer on the law explained.

The law also imposes a penalty for malicious reporting by covered institutions.

A person who "with malice or in bad faith, reports or files a false or unwarranted covered transaction report," could face imprisonment of six months to four years and a fine of not less than P100,000 to P500,000.

Those convicted of money laundering could be imprisoned for from 7 to 14 years, and meted a fine of not less than P3 million but not more than twice the value of laundered money.

Black list

The government rushed the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law before the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force to forestall financial and economic sanctions.

The FATP, which was set up by the world's leading industrialized countries, had placed the Philippines in a black list of 15 countries tagged as money-laundering havens.

The FATP listed 40 measures that all cooperative countries should adopt to stop or prevent money laundering.

The ban on media reporting of suspected money laundering transactions, and its criminalization, was not included in the FATF's recommendations.

The closest to such a ban was the 17th recommendation which states that: "Financial institutions, their directors, officers and employees should not, or, where appropriate, should not be allowed to, warn their customers when information relating to them is being reported to competent authorities."

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‘Amihan’ is here

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE COUNTRY is now experiencing the northeast monsoon season or *amihan*, the cold period that Filipinos often associate with the coming Christmas season, the weather bureau said yesterday.

Amihan, which brings cold winds from wintry regions in northern Asia, has set in early this month and is expected to last until February, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

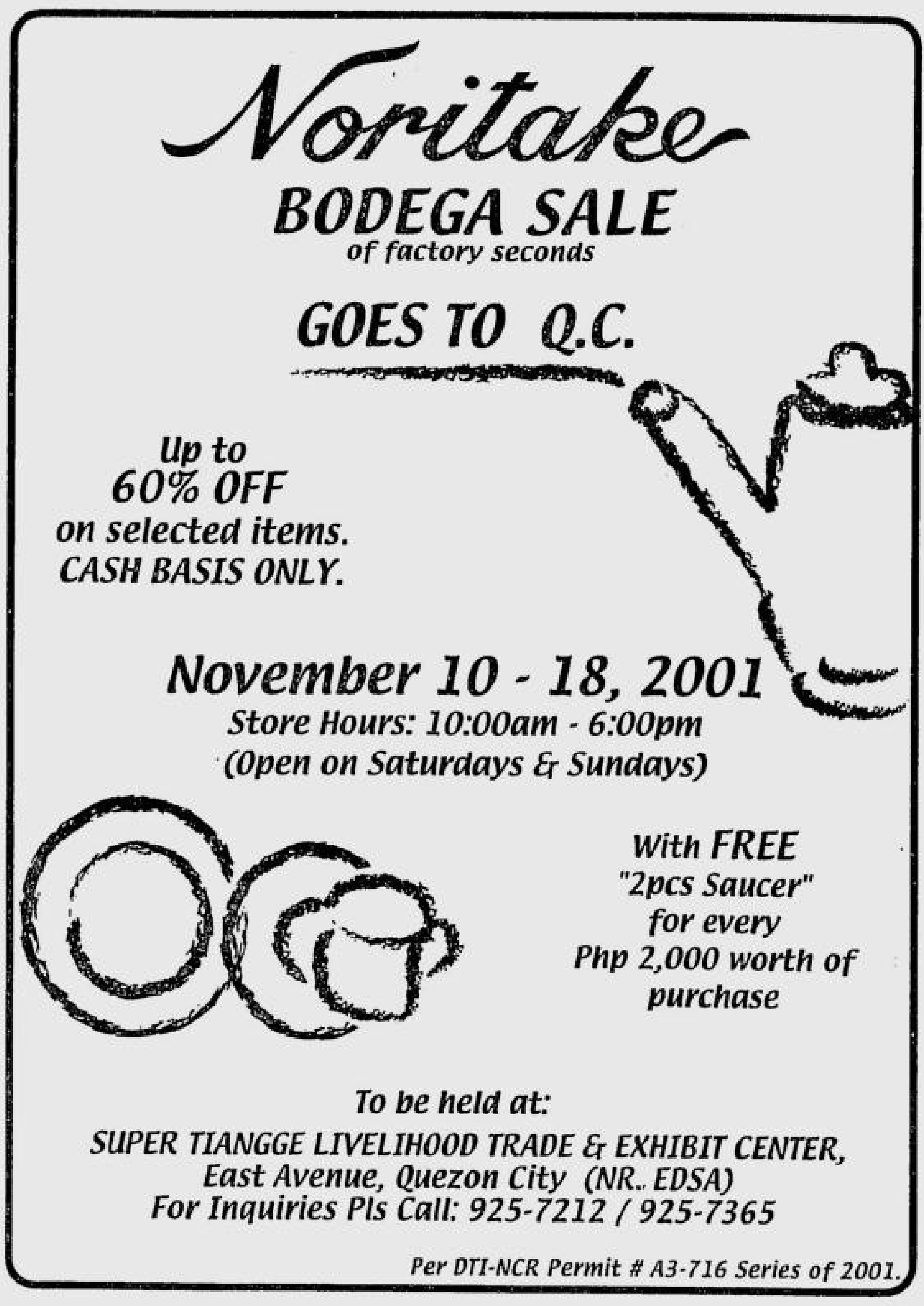
"*Amihan* is upon us," Pagasa supervising weather specialist Prisco Nilo said in an interview, noting the prevailing pattern of cold northeasterly winds passing through the country since last month.

The biting cold is more felt in the northern and eastern coast of northern Luzon, the point of entry of the northeasterly wind, he said.

"If you're living in Aparri or somewhere in northern Luzon, you really feel the cold temperature especially in the morning and even at night. But here in the western side like Metro Manila, it isn't that cold because we're at the tail-end," Nilo said.

Amihan reaches its peak in January, when winter in the northern hemisphere is at its height, according to Nilo.

During the northeast monsoon season, the temperature in Baguio City, known as the coldest place in the country, is pegged at 10 degrees Celsius and in Metro Manila, around 20 to 22 degrees Celsius.



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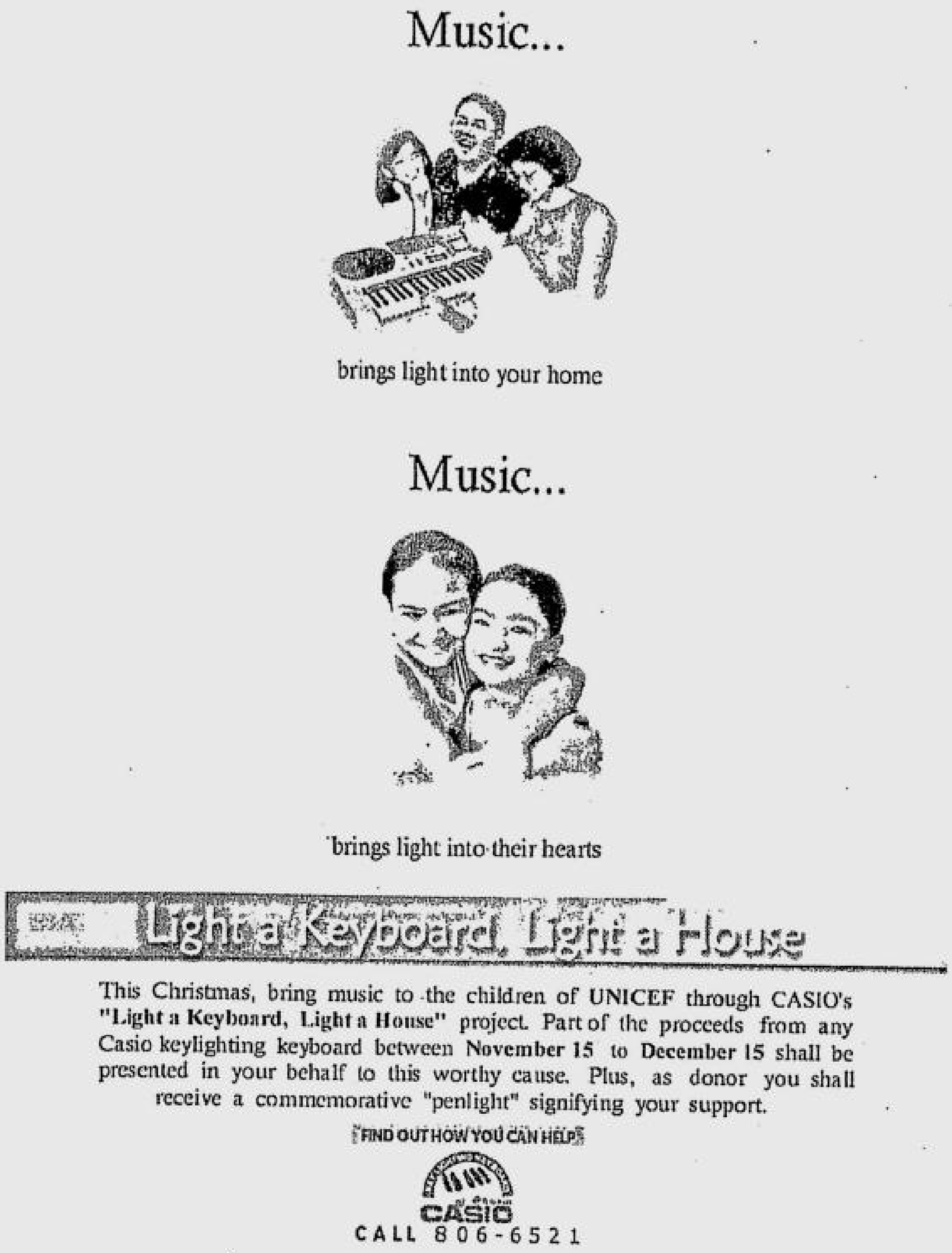

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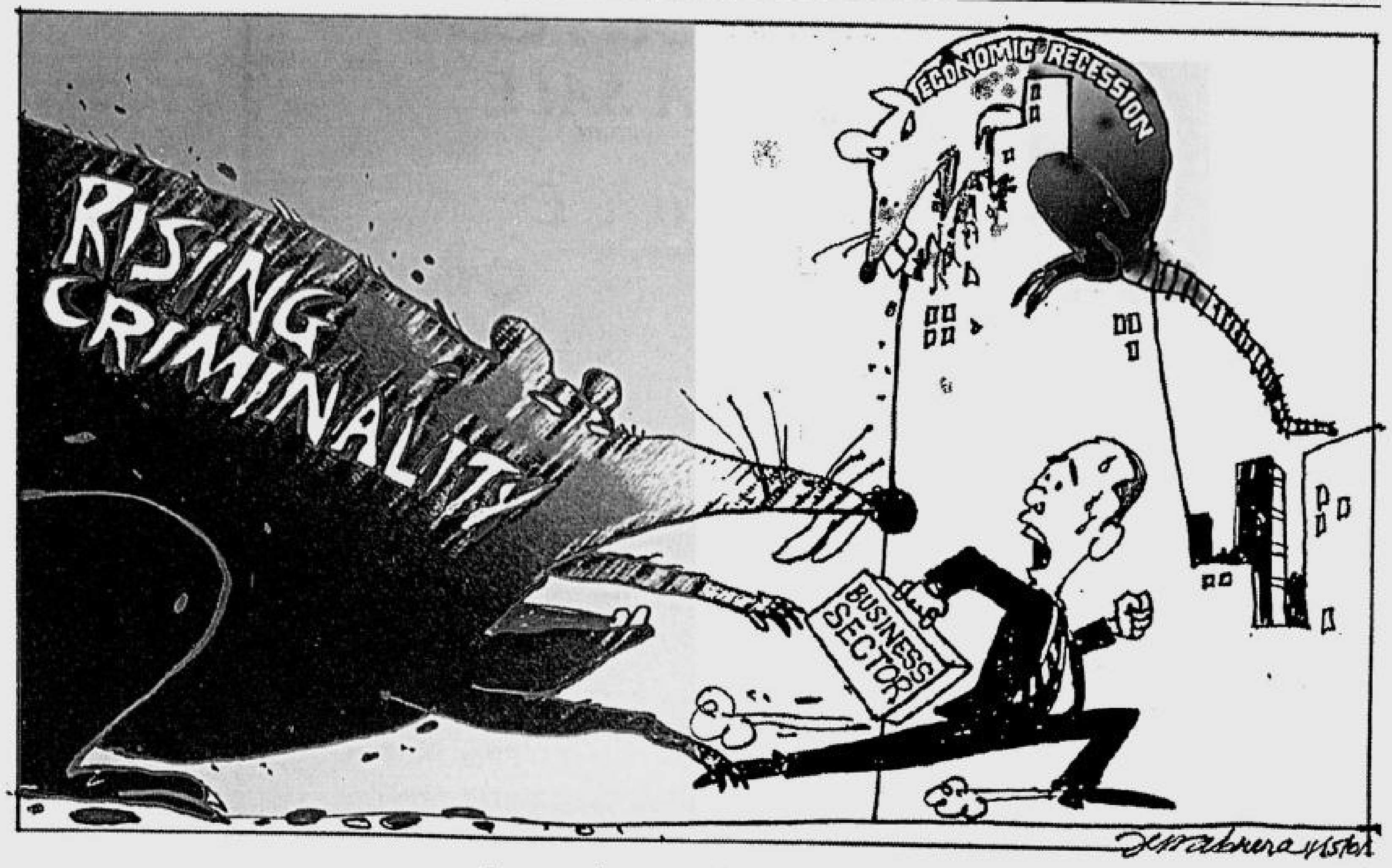

EDITORIALS

Fall of Kabul

THE FALL of Kabul to the Northern Alliance on Tuesday was an important military breakthrough in the US-led campaign to end the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban fled from the capital without offering a fight. The Alliance offensive did not score a decisive military victory and some Western military experts interpreted the withdrawal as a tactical retreat, presaging a protracted guerrilla war by the Taliban.

It would be a mistake to interpret the fall of Kabul as a defeat for the Taliban. Although the US-backed Northern Alliance, aided by four weeks of US saturation bombing of Taliban military facilities, armor, troops and infrastructure, has dramatically gained territory in Northern Afghanistan, the Taliban still holds Kandahar in the south, the heartland of the Pashtun tribe, which makes up 40 percent of the country's population.

There's little doubt that the US bombings facilitated the Alliance offensive, turning the tide in its favor. But Washington did not expect the swift collapse of Kabul. The Alliance pushed for Kabul, after weeks of internal bickering among its ethnic constituents: the Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hasaras, all of which are the traditional rivals of the Pashtuns.

In capturing Kabul, the Alliance ignored US President George W. Bush's admonition that the rebels stay out of Kabul until the framework of a broadly based government is in place. If the rebels waited for this to happen, the advantage of the bombings could have been wasted. After the fall of Kabul, the United States changed its position and welcomed the fall. The United States needed a significant victory in the face of the growing impatience of the American public over the seeming lack of success after a month of bombings.

The whereabouts of Osama bin Laden are unknown, but the retreat of the Taliban is believed to have opened more opportunities for the United States and its allies to hunt him down and destroy his al-Qaida terrorist network and make the logistics of supplying and maintaining the allied military campaign easier.

The Taliban's retreat to the south shifts bombing pressure away from big population centers of the north, allowing a more focused attack. A less intense bombing on the eve of Ramadhan could mute the objections of Islamic countries, including Pakistan, which have called for a complete stop to the bombing during the Muslim month of fasting lest it galvanize Islamic hostility toward the United States.

The reason Bush wanted the Alliance to stay out of Kabul was that he wanted to buy time for the formation of a broadly based Afghan government that includes all the ethnic tribes, including the Pashtuns. The United States, Pakistan and Britain fear a vacuum that would be filled by the Northern Alliance taking power.

Power sharing

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair was taken aback by the speed of the Northern Alliance's northward sweep and said it has diminished Bin Laden's chances of escape. But he called for an urgent United Nations presence in Kabul to fill the power vacuum left by the Taliban. He said a UN peacekeeping force was needed in Kabul "as soon as possible" to prevent bloodshed.

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan has warned of bloodshed if the Northern Alliance took sole power in Afghanistan. His proposal that a peacekeeping force recruited from Muslim countries which are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference should control Kabul until a multi-ethnic government is established should be taken seriously. Already there are reports of atrocities by Alliance troops following their entry into Kabul.

A hopeful note, however, is that the Northern Alliance foreign minister, Abdullah Abdullah, has invited UN teams to Kabul "to help us in the peace process." He said the Alliance was prepared to share power with all Afghan factions, except the Taliban.

These initiatives can open the way to using diplomatic means to reduce military action on Afghanistan by allowing the Afghans to have a broadly based government that would isolate Bin Laden and al-Qaida and prevent them from continuing to use Afghanistan as their sanctuary.

All these developments are the significant outcome of the fall of Kabul.

Let there be light

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ANYBODY who drives in Metro Manila obviously notices something peculiar: it is dark. Except for the shopping and eating centers, the streets are poorly lighted. It is scary to walk in them because of the dim light. You could be mugged or raped in the streets. Even the downtown section of Manila (Avenida Rizal, Sta. Cruz, Quiapo, Recto, Escolta) which used to be a happy, well-lighted place, is now scary at any time of day or night—especially at night (we wrote about this in yesterday's column). And Rizal Park, which used to be a fun and relaxing place for families, is no longer safe to visit at night.

Even during the day, have you noticed how dark it is under the flyovers? When you drive through the tunnels on Edsa, you have to turn on your headlights even at high noon because it is as dark as Hades there. Very few or no lights.

The Metrorail stations should be beacons of light but they are not. In fact, the whole rail route from North Edsa to Baclaran is dark and scares people from going up the stairs to get a ride. And yet stringing up multi-colored lights along the whole route of the Metrorail (and LRT along Rizal and Taft avenues) will do a lot in livening up the atmosphere, especially this Christmas season, and attract commuters into taking the elevated transits.

It is impossible for our national and local government officials, and the operators of the elevated rails, not to notice this gloominess when they are driven around Metro Manila. So why don't they do something about it?

Aside from laziness and lack of imagination, one reason is the high cost of electricity. Local government units pay for the street lights. Business establishments pay for their electric consumption. Local governments are loathe to add street lights because they will have to pay more. When individual street lights, or a whole string of them, conk out, repairs purposely take a long time because the local governments save a lot of money that way. Businesses try to save money by scrimping on lighting and neon signs.

But light is a good business investment. The only bright lights in an otherwise gloomy metropolis are those coming from McDonald's and other fast-food outlets. They are like lighthouses in a sea of darkness. Each of them can be likened to Ernest Hemingway's "a clean well-lighted place."

This Christmas season, why don't we light up our neighborhoods brighter than usual? If the Metro Manila Development Authority can't collect the garbage, it should at least light up the streets. We may not have money in our pockets, but the happy multi-colored lights will at least bring joy into our hearts.

And so the electric bills will not weigh so heavily in the pocket, why not give a special discount for electric consumption during the Christmas season? That can be a gift of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the National Power Corp. and Meralco to the people. The Napocor is paying the independent power producers for electricity they don't generate (and therefore is not consumed anyway), why not make them earn their pay? Make the people, who are paying for them, use the electricity and brighten up the metropolis. A happy atmosphere is good for business and the economy.

* * *

Now for transportation. The government is putting all its eggs on mass transit into only one basket: the elevated rail lines. But the bursting metropolis has other means of mass transport that are not being exploited. These are the railroad, the Pasig River ferry, and the Manila-Cavite ferry on Manila Bay.

A Pasig River ferry has been tried but the business failed because of lack of passengers. But it does not mean that a river ferry cannot be successful here.

The initial effort failed because the boats used were small and low on the water. People were afraid to ride on them. Besides, because they were so low on the water, the aroma of the polluted river assailed the nostrils of the passengers.

Bigger, glass-enclosed ferries should solve that problem. The double-deckers of the Hong Kong ferry may be too tall to go under Metro Manila's bridges, but the single-decked boats like those in Disney World in Orlando would be just right.

The Pasig River used to be the main highway of Old Manila and environs. It can still be one today—as in Bangkok and Sydney—to help decongest Metro Manila's streets.

The Manila-Cavite ferry across Manila Bay is still plying the route but it should be expanded to take more of the vehicle load off Coastal Road and Aguinaldo Highway. Maybe the operator needs a loan to be able to buy more boats and tax incentives to encourage it to expand.

As for the railroad, other cities use theirs to the maximum. Not ours. The Philippine National Railways is in rigor mortis. Yet a commuter train will not only be able to move great masses of people and help decongest the roads, it will also convince squatters to move out of their squalid neighborhoods in the teeming metropolis to more open spaces in the countryside with more fresh air and sky. With cheap and fast rail transport, they don't have to suffer anymore staying in the city. They can live in the countryside and still be able to commute to their jobs in the city.

Happily, Speaker Jose de Venecia has a plan not only to rehabilitate the PNR but to build new rail lines in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. He claims enough funds can be raised from existing sources, from loans and from private investors. He plans to get the assistance of Japan, which has the latest technology on fast trains.

The Speaker deserves full support on this.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Healer, heal thyself

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"FROM HOME insulation to car engines, an international treaty on global warming will affect lives and landscapes around the world—except in the United States."

That report doesn't come from Al-Jazeera, it comes from the Associated Press. The report concerns the results of the meeting in Marrakech on global warming. The two-week conference to clear the way for implementation of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol ended on a triumphant note last weekend, producing a historic agreement. The Kyoto Protocol calls on the industrialized countries to curb their emissions of the so-called "greenhouse gases" to the earth's atmosphere, which environmentalists have tagged as the No. 1 cause of global warming. Upon ratification next year, the Marrakech agreement becomes binding on its signatories.

Those signatories do not include the United States, which not quite incidentally environmentalists have tagged as the No. 1 producer of "greenhouse gases." The United States accounts for 36.1 percent of them, followed by the European Union nations at 24.2 percent, Russia at 17.4 percent, and Japan at 8.5 percent. The United States has protested the Kyoto Protocol, arguing that there are other ways to curb global warming than by reducing the carbon emissions of factories and cars. That is to say, other than by scaling down a very upscale lifestyle. In a statement, President George W. Bush said the United States would take independent action to combat global warming. He said American programs were underway to further study climatic change and develop alternative technologies.

By no means is this a minor footnote to history, underscoring as it does the remarkable diplomatic principle the United States practices, which may be summed thus: There are only two types of countries in the world today—the United States and all others. Or better still: Do unto others what others may not do unto you.

It's a principle that completely undermines the moral authority of the United States to lead the world in any holy crusade, least of all against terrorism. The contrast between the United States' response to one form of terrorism, one that threatens civilization by its own avowal, and its response to another form of terrorism, one that threatens human survival itself by the world's avowal, is breathtaking.

At the very least, it highlights the United States' propensity for acting by itself, without the consent of or even in opposition to the world. Even the coalition against terror in the end boils down to it. It did not begin as the product of a general consensus among nations, it began as a unilateral American initiative that subsequently conscripted the support of the world. "Conscripted" is the word, as shown by the ridiculous concept of Pakistan becoming a cornerstone of the fight to save civilization, a country led by a leader who seized power in a coup, that has been high in the list of Amnesty International as a human rights violator, and that harbors rogue nukes.

You go beneath the tangled skein of rhetoric that attends the American posture today, and you will be hard put to answer some pretty bothersome questions. Chief of them: What is the difference between the Talibans' position on Osama bin Laden and the American position on global warming?

The Talibans said they could not give up Bin Laden because the Americans did not show absolute proof it was in fact he who had ordered the savage attack in New York. All they had was circumstantial evidence. The United States says it cannot agree to the Kyoto Protocol because the world has not given absolute proof the emissions of carbons by its cars and factories constitute a savage attack on the earth's atmosphere. All the world has is circumstantial evidence.

The Talibans said they could not give up Bin Laden because it was contrary to their customs and beliefs. Those customs and beliefs said they might not yield a guest, and not an ungenerous one at that, simply upon demand by the strong. They were prepared to pay for those customs and beliefs with their lives. The United States says it cannot curb its emissions of carbons because it is contrary to their economy and their lifestyle. That economy and lifestyle define the American way of life, and not an enviable one at that, and may not be given up simply upon demand by the weak. They are prepared to pay for that economy and lifestyle with the life of the planet.

The Talibans said surely there must be another way of solving the impasse over Bin Laden. They could agree that the United States, which had been hurt most grievously, deserved redress. But maybe negotiation and examining the roots of terrorism rather than its branches were the better course of action. The United States says surely there must be another way of solving the impasse over global warming. They can agree the earth has been hurt most grievously and deserves a respite. But maybe research into other alternatives and further study into the roots of climatic change were the better course of action.

If there is any difference at all in the two situations, it is only in that the Talibans were facing a United States that was wearing the mask of the world, while the United States is facing a world that is wearing no mask. Only the United States wasn't there in Marrakech. Only Americans, to paraphrase AP, won't have to give up blood, sweat and tears while the world braces to fight global warming. But in both cases, the problem is a grievous and urgent one: the survival of civilization and the survival of the planet. In both cases, the required action is an immediate and forceful one: a campaign to quell terrorism and a move to curb global warming. In both cases, the proffered solution has been refused by group of people who do not mind bucking the world.

Yet the Talibans have been punished mercilessly while the American officials continue to be lauded tirelessly by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Someone did say wisely in truly ancient times, "Healer, heal thyself."

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Chinese illegals–sensitive immigration issue

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I READ with great interest the recent series by the INQUIRER investigative team on the kidnapping problem, especially the revelation by PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, the new anti-kidnap czar, on the number of Chinese nationals illegally entering the country. I just arrived from China where I covered the visit of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, who, along with her key officials, discussed the various problems involved in the immigration issue with the Chinese Ministry of Public Security. The BID's denial of visas to Chinese nationals was a thorny and sensitive issue raised by the Chinese authorities with RP immigration officials.

* * *

Ebdane told the INQUIRER team that at least 120,000 Chinese yearly enter the Philippines illegally, with the desire to improve their economic status in China. Some use legitimate businesses as cover; in fact, Ebdane pointed out that the Chinese group involved in the kidnapping of Jackie Tiu was engaged in the sale of water pumps, but turned to kidnapping obviously because it was more profitable. He revealed that each Chinese national arrives here carrying a maximum amount of P300,000 in his pocket, but some of them soon seize local opportunities ranging from buy and sell to kidnapping and drugs. It has been noted that a number of Chinese nationals are engaged in the selling of goods in places like Binondo and Baclaran, even though they do not speak a word of Filipino.

Over the weekend, as we were leaving Beijing, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez arrived there. I gathered that part of his mission was to discuss with his counterpart ways and means of checking the illegal entry of Chinese nationals. President Macapagal was said to have dispatched Perez to China, as she was quite disturbed by the disclosure that some 70 percent of the shabu factories operating locally are run by Chinese nationals.

* * *

In China, BID chief Domingo was confronted with the issue of denying entry to Chinese travelers. The Chinese authorities wanted to know why their nationals were being denied entry when they have complete documents, including passports and visas. This query was raised both in the closed-door sessions, from which we media people were excluded, as well as during the farewell lunch in the progressive seaport city of Xiamen, where the media were invited. At that luncheon Domingo diplomatically pointed out to her host, the regional security official, that 80 percent of Chinese travelers enter through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and that the number of Chinese nationals being denied entry in RP ports has dwindled to .006 percent a year. Tactfully she did not discuss the hard reasons for denial during that luncheon, but I understand that in the closed-door meetings that began in Beijing, those were discussed.

If Ebdane's figures are correct, Domingo's revelation about the tiny fraction being denied entry leads to the conclusion that a lot more of those illegal entrants go in, not through the front-door, but the backdoor. Among the backdoor areas are the long isolated coastlines of Isabela and Quezon, where one recalls stories about human smuggling. It is perhaps no coincidence that these are also the areas frequently being used to drop drug shipments from abroad.

* * *

The query raised by the Chinese authorities places the BID in a spot, for there are those who feel that various local agencies are not doing enough to stop the illegal entrants. The Chinese authorities have every right to protect their nationals at RP points of entry, but I would imagine that given all the negative publicity Chinese nationals have gotten during the recent joint Senate hearings on very serious allegations about drug-trafficking involving high-ranking former PNP officials, including Sen. Panfilo Lacson, they would also want their national reputation straightened out by cooperating fully with RP authorities in preventing their bad eggs from going overseas.

Sammy Vallada, BID operations chief at the Naia, told this columnist that there are several grounds for denial of entry or revocation of visas, among them fake and spurious documents, including passports and visas, and gainful employment while traveling as tourists. Because of the preponderance of Chinese involved in the drug operations here, knowledge of chemicals can be ground for denial of entry. Then there are travelers with no obvious means of support who could end up in the sex trade.

* * *

Domingo stressed that the help of the Philippine consulate in verifying information could be critical. I asked Consul General Corazon Bahjin in Xiamen about the problem of visas and she confessed that it's very difficult to deny them to most Chinese travelers, considering that when they apply they present complete documents, including those on bank accounts and property. "When we give out the visas, *na*-profile *na namin ang mga ito*, and everything is okay," she said, adding that Chinese nationals prize their passports so much as they are most difficult to obtain. She admitted, however, that the many cases of Chinese travelers simply disappearing in the Philippines (which is not unlike those who go TNT in the United States) make greater coordination among RP agencies and with the Chinese counterparts most necessary.

* * *

An interesting show that opened last Monday, Nov. 12, and continues until Nov. 19 is the one-woman exhibit of former Good Shepherd nun Emma Alday, titled "Sa Kabukiran," at the Amrhein Gallery of St. Scholastica's College in Leon Guinto, Manila. Alday exhibits her Nature "paintings" fashioned from indigenous, organic materials such as pressed flowers, twigs, leaves, fibers, palay and wood, which she skillfully weaves into wall compositions using watercolor, terra cotta and other media. "Sa Kabukiran" also presents images of farmers at work and other everyday scenes in the town of Behia, Quezon, where she and another former nun, Isyang Lagahit, have lived and worked since the mid-1970s.

Since leaving their convent, the two ex-nuns have set up a cooperative in the Tiaong area that benefits some 300 farmers as well as a multi-awarded and profitable organic six-hectare farm in Quezon. Cecile Alvarez and I featured Alday on Cecile's dzRH show last Sunday evening, and she spoke not only about her projects but also the problems confronting farmers, including their psychological handicap in not owning their land. The one-woman show is her tribute to the farmers with whom she has bonded for over 25 years. Catch it.

Goodbye

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND tells me that her elderly mother in San Francisco is so depressed over the death of Nida Blanca, a sentiment shared by so many other Filipinos in the Bay Area and, I suppose, all over the United States as well.

So upset was her mother, my friend said, that they spent precious minutes of an overseas call to exchange reminiscences of Nida's movies and TV roles. "*Ganyan kalakas ang hatak ni* Nida (that's how strong her pull is)," said my friend, remarking how her death had so affected not just her mother, but also herself and her children. Her children, all young adults, knew of Nida not so much through her movies, as through her weekly presence in their lives as "Marsha" in the 16-year running TV sitcom "John en Marsha."

Readers from abroad wrote in, too, to express appreciation for a recent column on Nida that, they said, not only evoked memories of her movies and her place in entertainment history, but also of their own childhood memories and of a Philippines in a more innocent time.

As I write this, the major TV stations are still providing live coverage of Nida Blanca's funeral and burial. Rising above the prayers being said at the gravesite at the Loyola Memorial Park is the din of the crowd crying out for the attention of movie stars and celebrities and perhaps in sympathy, too, with Nida's family and friends.

Perhaps her friends and family would have wished that their parting could have taken place with greater dignity and privacy. But for someone who spent so much of her life in the glare of public attention, this proof of the public's enduring love was fitting, the people's way of testifying to her lingering presence.

* * *

WHY the outpouring of public grief for Nida, as seen in the thousands of ordinary people who trooped to the White Plains chapel during her wake, lined the route of her funeral cortege, and crowded around her burial site?

True, she was a beloved icon who bolstered her screen and TV image with the integrity of her character and personal beliefs. But we must also acknowledge that the manner of her death was not only sensational but also personal, disturbing and frightful. Celebrities have passed away, and Nida Blanca was not the first to die from violence. But the popular sentiment is that if someone like Nida, who did no one harm and was universally loved, could be killed in so bloody and shocking a manner, then who is safe? If such a well-known figure could be killed inside a posh condominium building patrolled by private security (however inadequate), then what protection could the ordinary person, walking our dangerous streets, count on?

Indeed, the show of force by ordinary folk, many of whom had traveled from nearby provinces just to pay tribute to their movie idol, was not just devotion to a beloved entertainer but also a cry of anger at the growing violence in our midst.

No, she did not deserve to die in that manner. But neither do we deserve to live under the constant fear of kidnapping, theft, petty crime and random violence as we do now.

* * *

REPORTS say that in the wake of the Taliban withdrawal from the Afghan capital of Kabul, there was rejoicing in the streets as men streamed out of their homes and made a beeline for barbershops to shave their beards. In the years of living under Taliban rule, Afghans had to put up with all sorts of draconian edicts, from the requirement for all men to wear beards and wear black turbans to the outlawing of music and dance.

As soon as the last pick-up filled with Taliban and their foreign "visitors" had left the city limits, music began blaring from the homes of ordinary citizens, and everyone began dancing and singing.

And yet celebration was somehow muted, tentative at best, for those Afghans who had come under particularly harsh control under Taliban rule. Afghan women, said reports, still preferred to walk about enveloped in their burqa, heavy robes that cover them from head to foot, concealing the entire body and face, with just small cutouts that allow them to see the outside world.

A story said some women took off their veils upon hearing the news but put them back on once the euphoria subsided. "For now we will leave the burqa on. We don't know yet who are these people in the city," one woman said.

* * *

INCREDIBLY, especially for those who believed that the departure of the Taliban would mean instant "emancipation" for the women of Afghanistan, Kabul's occupation by the Northern Alliance is no assurance of better days ahead for Afghan women.

Though conditions were not as harsh or cruel as during the Taliban reign, women's status still left much to be desired under successive conservative regimes in Afghanistan. And in a period of chaos and uncertainty, despite the celebratory mood in Kabul, women need to be extra careful lest they become targets of the victorious forces. After all, women have been historically seen as "war booty" for the winning side.

If the women feel safer beneath the burqa, then I say they should keep the robes on, though they should be aware as well that even this restrictive clothing does not guarantee failsafe protection against male marauders.

As the various forces, including the American military commanders who lent their firepower to the primitive force of the Northern Alliance, sit down to plan the post-Taliban scenario in Afghanistan, it is my hope that a place or places will be set for women at this table. Without women articulating their concerns and demands, and winning guarantees for their rights and protection, they might as well still be living under the severe gaze of Taliban rule.

At last, two victories for Mangyans

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THERE, live gentle people who know not the ways of war, people the color of clay, shy and swift like the deer, mountain-sturdy, brothers and sisters to the vanishing *tamaraw*.

That was a line in a long feature, "Reclaiming a Lost Eden," I wrote in 1988, after I stayed with the Alangan Mangyans of Mindoro for some days. I was smitten by their ways, appalled by their poverty. I went back there after a couple of years and found a group taking on an institution of learning.

"Illiterate Mangyans vs DECS" was the title of the column piece I wrote on this space 10 years ago on Dec. 6, 1991. That was not to put down the Mangyans. That was to stress the absurd. The no-read-no-write of Mindoro were taking on the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (and later the Commission on Higher Education or CHED).

It was not a case of a few Mangyan upstarts taking on a powerful government bureaucracy. It was a case of government neglect, heartlessness and mis-education on what people, life and land—and yes, education—were all about. But I must say something about the word "illiterate" later.

Now, 10 years almost to the day, and—this needs to be stressed—four presidents later, the Mangyans are tasting victory. I wish I could go to Mindoro now and celebrate with them, partake in an agape of *kamote,* yam and the purest honey. I had seen them in a miserable state, living like nomads, being pushed away from the land that had always been theirs. I have pictures to show.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Secretaries Ging Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and Vicky Garchitorena of the Presidential Management Staff, and most of all, the never-say-die spirit of the people who work among the Mangyans, particularly my dear friend, Sr. Victricia Pascasio, S.Sp.S., the 50-year-old land problem of the Mangyans and farmer-settlers with the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (Minscat) is no more.

In a historic turn of events, the CHED, through its enlightened Chair Ester Albano-Garcia, finally agreed to transfer more than 300 hectares of land to a group of Mangyans who were deprived of their rights when Minscat was established 50 years ago. Portions of the school reservation will be transferred from the CHED to the Department of Agrarian Reform and then to the Mangyans' organizations.

Let me mention these groups and their heroic leaders who did not give up the fight: Samahan ng mga Nagkakaisang Mangyan Alangan led by Viring Maligaya; Kapulungan Para sa Lupaing Ninuno; and Samahaan ng Lakas Magsasaka, Mangingisda at Katutubo led by Leopoldo Luci.

The other victory is just as big. Last week, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo upheld Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's order revoking the permit for the Mindoro Nickel Project of the Crew Mining Co. The Mangyans and farmers involved in the Minscat land issue happen to live a few kilometers away from the site and would have been adversely affected.

I am stingy when it comes to giving praise to people in government but this time I have to pour it. I laud the CHED and Minscat officials for letting go of portions of the land. The school has set a moral precedent.

Background: A 1951 presidential proclamation set aside a total of 3,680 hectares of land in Naujan, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, for an agricultural school. When Block 1 was developed, the Alangan Mangyans who had lived there since the time of Adam and Eve were driven out and moved to Block 3. Some non-Mangyans remained on campus and in nearby areas.

Years later, many non-Mangyans were awarded portions. The Mangyans got nothing. In the late 1970s the government's Palayan ng Bayan was launched in Block 3, the place the Mangyans had been banished to. The Mangyans were forced out again.

For years, the Mangyans pursued their claims. But Minscat argued that an agricultural school needed so much land. In 1999, CHED Commissioner Mona Valisno wrote in a memo that "the current policies for B.S. Agriculture state that an institution should have a minimum of 50 hectares." Minscat had more than 3,000 to start with!

Later, even when the DAR proceeded to distribute some of the school's landholdings while retaining a contiguous 700 hectares for the campus, the Mangyans and farmer-settlers who found themselves within that 700 hectares faced another problem. They did not want to enter into a memorandum of agreement with Minscat which would give qualified settlers usufructuary privileges for 25 years that could be renewed for another 25 years. The settlers insisted on a certificate of land ownership.

Could the Mangyans have been simply transferred elsewhere? No. The place where they were to be transferred to was not fertile and had been overtreated with chemicals. They wanted the place of their ancestors. They were going to fight for their rights in accordance with the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act while the farmer-settlers would invoke the agrarian reform law.

Thanks to the NAPC and the PMS, the Mangyans themselves and those who have supported them all these years, the Mangyans have emerged victorious. Minscat should take some credit, too.

Significantly, last Sept. 18, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act or RA 8371.

Now, about the word "illiterate." The Mangyans, as a whole, aren't illiterate. They are among the few indigenous communities that still have their own way of writing or syllabary (not alphabet). I watched with interest Susan Calo-Medina's TV feature on the Mangyans, as well as the anthropologists and language experts who are trying to preserve the ancient form of writing. I was amazed at how the Mangyans wrote with ease on banana leaves and bamboo. The DECS and CHED should lose no time in re-introducing this ancient knowledge to our schools so that it does not go extinct. Minscat, take the lead.

Phone fatale

YOUNGBLOOD

Angelo Hernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

GREENHILLS has always been the place for great buys and rare finds. A regular visitor, I was there to exchange one of my great buys and found something rare indeed: trouble.

The telecom stall is located in a corner in front of the corridor leading toward the only toilet in Virra Mall. It is owned and operated by somebody we will call Ali, apparently someone from Mindanao who is thinner than a slim batt but with a tongue that is nastier than your worst ringing tone.

The story begins when I purchased a slim batt for my 5110. A feeble attempt to dress up a down-to-earth (cheap) mobile. Of course, upon purchase, the saleslady gave some helpful tips on how to take care of my new acquisition. A scene reminiscent to that movie "Gremlins." She told me to be mindful of the charging time. Slim batteries get full easily. If fed too much, it will expand.

Easy. I coughed up P300 for lightweight battery bliss. For the next two weeks, even my slacks got slimmer. No more bulky bulge. No more heavyweight hulk. No more fat batt. Ahh, sweet. I was actually content. I was even proud of my featherweight phone.

But satisfaction came with a price. I had to keep an eye on it while it charged. And did I pay, dearly. Instead of watching Johnny Knoxville swing a sledgehammer to his crotch, I had to sit and watch the itsy-bitsy battery icon as it loaded. Needless to say, I slowly found myself connecting to my Nokia.

No love story can be great without a tragedy. One scorching Sunday afternoon, the battery charger switched to hyper mode. I was stupid. Inconsiderate. Careless. Horny. I left my phone alone with the hyper charger because Rica Peralejo hexed my hyper hormones. "Balahibong Pusa" made my *balahibong macho* crawl. After her set, although I was a bit disappointed because I was almost certain her "set" would pop out but it didn't, I checked on my fancy 5110. And there it was, sweating. My violated phone was even hotter than Ms Peralejo. I urgently snatched her (my phone, not Rica) from the hyper charger. And my battery was never the same again. Damn you hyper hormones!

Naturally, I had to return to my good old, fat batt. I knew this reunion would not last. I'd been floating in the clouds and I refused to be dragged down.

As any responsible consumer, I make it a point to ask for a receipt. And I also make sure I keep it. So begins Greenhills revisited.

On the way, I was a tad apprehensive. Trying to exchange items bought usually turns into an exchange of hostilities. Is it just me, or do Filipino merchants still don't give a damn about consumer rights?

I brought my girlfriend along. A brief profile is in order then. She gets her way—always—no matter what the cost. Bringing her seemed like a smashing idea.

Anyway, the telecom stall was now within striking distance, and I was dead sure the Gremlin saleslady recognized me. Eye contact and a welcoming attitude gave her away. For a moment there, I thought everything would go smoothly. I was dead wrong.

So I pulled out the bogged-down battery and the almighty receipt. It did not take an Einstein to figure it out. She knew our purpose.

All of a sudden Gremlin saleslady turned to lying, sack-o-septic waste Pinocchio. As the jargon goes, deny to death *ang bruha.*

To death would have been an accurate estimate. My girlfriend is as persistent as a 2-year-old on steroids. (I'm really not quite sure what that means, but I'm sure you get the drift.)

Pinocchio saleslady eventually reached her nose-stretching limit. So enter, owner-operator Ali, with brother with a moustache, plus friend with a moustache who looked like Ali, plus other friend with a moustache, tacky gold necklace and dirty old glasses, also an Ali look-alike, plus the man who sells popcorn in the corner who could really use a bath and an industrial strength anti-perspirant. In short, a mob retaliation unit.

They kept on insisting that it was not their receipt. Fine. I was about ready to leave. Of course, on account of the Ali look-alike with the tacky gold necklace caution who warned us: "*Alis na lang kayo, puro* Muslim *kami dito.*"

But, my girlfriend lives up to her profile. No matter what the cost, baby. All we wanted was an explanation and Ali started calling us names. I was about ready to leave, but nobody calls me stupid—even if it is fairly accurate at times.

The arguments were so heated I thought Virra Mall would once again burst into a raging fire. And sweaty, popcorn man started getting physical. He pushed like butter though—soft and slippery. I could have pounded him with a jumbo tumbler.

My girlfriend started to get smart and called the men in blue. And as soon as they arrive, all the moustache disappeared faster than an electric razor can shave. And sweaty, popcorn man retired to his corner, and vented his frustration on, what else, but popcorn. However, Ali and Pinocchio stand ground. It was their stall after all.

Off we marched to the decrepit, little police station on the parking lot. Matters were settled quickly, as it was late and no one was going to get paid over time. Ali apologized. He reasoned that he just came in from wherever, fresh out of a domestic scuffle with wife No. 5, and was in no mood for diplomacy. The police escorted us to the store indicated in the receipt. The store exchanged the item, no questions asked.

I've got my slim batt. No one got hurt. Except for popcorn man who scalded his tongue with hot butter. And everything ended well.

Except for one minor detail. Although it pains me to admit, I brought the wrong, damn receipt. Yes, I showed them the wrong receipt. And once again, the perspective of right versus wrong has completely collapsed. I was probably more responsible for the ruckus than Pinocchio could ever be. But she lied. I still have the receipt, the real one to prove it. I just did not have it with me that fateful night. Okay, fine. You can call me stupid.

Be that as it may, I still learned valuable lessons from this misadventure: Don't lie. Always check your receipt. Even the innocents are not spared from the consequences of war. (The other store replaced my old slim batt even if it was not theirs in the first place.) Always take a bath because you will never know when you may have to accost a customer. And finally, phone love can be fatal.

Angelo Hernandez, 25, works as an account executive.

THEY SAID

Wrong target

"This pilot must have been blind. There are no military bases here—only innocent people."

—Afghan Hazi Ullah, speaking after a US bomb killed civilians

Preparation for afterlife

"Forget about money, this is between me and God. All that I am doing is in preparation for me when I go back to God."

—Mahmoud Asfour, explaining his generosity to poor families in Nueva Vizcaya

Martyrdom

"We are not afraid of death because martyrdom is a great gift to God."

—Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar

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Gov't's big plans for natural gas

WE laud President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the measures her administration has pledged to adopt for the development of the local natural gas industry.

The construction of onshore pipelines to bring natural gas from Batangas to Manila and the use of natural gas for public transport in two years' time will be a big boon to Metro Manilans who have been contending with pollution for a long time now.

But how about the provinces? Natural gas is very expensive to transport and extending the pipeline to distant provinces is even more expensive.

This is why we are also very happy about the administration's plans, as outlined by Energy Undersecretary Cyrill del Callar, to develop renewable energy sources and fuels, and to revise the defective fuel tax structure in their favor in order to encourage their use. We need a clean energy fuel mix to replace the conventional pollutive fuels, mainly diesel, bunker fuel and coal.

God has blessed our country with rich sources of indigenous and renewable energy, which do not need pipelines or supertankers to haul, and can be produced by small and medium industries. These would be ideal for the provinces, create livelihood for the countryside and stimulate provincial and rural economies.

When a visionary government dares to open new frontiers and musters the political will to push ahead with programs that are sure to benefit the country, no matter how difficult the way, its efforts will prosper because the people will support it.

Go ahead, President Macapagal, with your plans for natural gas and other alternative energy/fuels. We are behind you and will support you all the way in this endeavor.—**ANGELINA P. GALANG, president, Environmental Education Network of the Philippines; ESTER PEREZ DE TAGLE, chair, Partnership for Clean Air**

LETTERS

Erap's pathetic quest for sanctuary

THE LATEST bid of ousted President Joseph Estrada to seek medical treatment in the United States was made by no less than Senate committee on health vice chair, Sen. Loi Ejercito.

This latest ploy of the ousted leader to get a leave from detention is utterly pathetic. There is no real emergency in Estrada's long-time illnesses. The real motive is their desperate search for sanctuary rather than cures for his illnesses which in fact are readily available even in our government hospitals.

Cataract extraction, a 30-minute to one-hour procedure, is done regularly even by training residents of the Philippine General Hospital and other government hospitals. It is an out-patient procedure nowadays, needing no hospitalization at all. But should he insist on getting the services of his eye specialist, this US-based doctor has a Makati clinic, too.

On Estrada's osteoarthritic knee, diagnostic arthroscopy (a minor surgical procedure to look into the knee joint) and even knee-joint replacement are already being done successfully at the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital. Private hospitals such as St. Luke's, Makati Medical Center and Capitol Medical Center are other options. A US-based orthopedic surgeon has also set up the Philippine Orthopedic Institute, which has its own manufacturing plant for knee and other joint prosthesis in Laguna.

The medical ploy smacks of double-standard and is an insult to our excellent doctors.

Erap wants medical care in a foreign country while the *masa* continuously suffer from steadily privatized and commercialized health care. The expectedly very expensive fees for a US medical check-up and cure could very well fund a year's operation of the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital.

Should Erap be granted a US trip, it's not only our health system that is put into question, but more importantly the judicial system.—**JOSEPH M. CARABEO, M.D., Code Red for Good Governance, 233 Mayon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City**

Extended holiday an equalizer

THE WEEK-LONG vacation for employees—from Christmas Day to New Year's Day—proposed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is in order and, in fact, long overdue.

More than the projected economic boost and the logic that "workers are unproductive anyway during the period because of the holiday mood," they deserve a long vacation. They are badly deprived of the needed rest and recreation. Only the rich enjoy the luxury of time. The long holiday is, thus, a good equalizer.

This is an effective way to promote local tourism to support the sagging tourism industry which has suffered heavily from the war against terrorists, aggravated by the travel advisories issued by the United States, Japan, Mainland China and other countries because of the Abu Sayyaf activities.

Employees have been working all-year round with only a two-day rest, which is unquestionably inadequate for the recreation that they need, physically and emotionally.

The work is particularly hard for immigration personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and other international airports who religiously work six days a week. A system has to be formulated, say, time adjustments like additional two hours each working day, so that they, too, can get a two-day rest.

If President Macapagal puts into effect this ideal concept, it will go down as a generous gift to workers who have been deprived of freedom to spend enough time for needed family activities like vacation and rest.

But I agree with the labor groups who oppose it on grounds of the no-work, no-pay policy of private companies, hence, the proposal should only cover government employees who have fixed salaries.

It will be a big disadvantage for private workers who will be denied the already inadequate earnings, the very reason why they cry for a raise which, unfortunately, cannot be granted because of the economic crisis.

At any rate, the proposed Christmas vacation will be a big relief and significant change for government personnel.—**ALFRED L. JUNTILLA, Equitable Subd., Talon, Las Piñas City**

What Concepcion said

I READ your editorial titled, "Muzzling the press," and I was rather surprised that you continue to be critical of my statement, considering that I was also invited as a guest at the "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" talk show and I specifically clarified the press statement attributed to me as follows:

1. That this forthcoming summit cannot be like the "business as usual" summits of previous administrations.

2. That the crisis we are facing today is the worst since World War II.

3. That this is the time, during a crisis, for all sectors to reflect and analyze why our progress has been little compared to our Asean neighbors.

4. Perhaps there is a need for all sectors like government, labor, business, civil society, the NGOs, the politicians and even media to observe a one-year moratorium on adversarial politics and negativism so that we can focus on how we can surmount the worst economic crisis and global recession next year.

What I have said in her talk show is exactly what I stated in my statement to the media last Nov. 6.—**RAUL T. CONCEPCION, chair, Consumer and Oil Price Watch, Concepcion Industries Inc. Bldg., 308 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Ext., Makati City**

Veterans getting ₱500 hike in pension

THIS refers to the letter of Asuncion Dig in the Oct. 24, 2001 issue of the INQUIRER.

We appreciate the suggestions regarding the mailing of pension checks. Rest assured that we will give this matter our immediate attention.

Please also be informed that the Department of Budget and Management recently released to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office an amount for the payment of the additional P500 increase mandated by law. Pursuant to this, the PVAO prepared separate checks in the amount of P500. Hence, for July, pensioners received their usual P4,000 monthly pension. The additional P500 check followed.

For the month of August 2001, pensioners received a single check in the amount of P4,500, representing their monthly pension plus the P500 increase up to October 2001.

The PVAO is requesting an additional P124 million from the DBM for the months of November and December.—**GINA BALLESFIN, chief, Office of Public Affairs, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, Veterans Compound, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City**

Jesus Christ, made in China

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE OTHER day as I got out of the LRT station on Pedro Gil, I noticed bright blinking lights coming from wares being sold on sidewalks. The vendors were hawking all kinds of Chinese products. There were ballpens at P4 each and six-outlet electric extension cords at P80 each. The blinking lights came from glass images of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary (nope, I didn't ask how much those were).

We have an explosion of Chinese imported goods in the country. Some of the stuff I have just described are also available in malls and the *tiangge* at slightly higher prices, supplemented by other more "up-market" electronic items, from vibrating hair brushes to VCD players.

Upper-class Filipino will scoff at these "cheap" items, unaware that many of the products they have at home are made in China, or at least have components from China. To name a few, you have fresh as well as processed foods, clothing and shoes, toys, computer accessories, cell phones, Christmas lights, even books (you'd be surprised at how many English books are now printed in China).

All that we're seeing now is really only the beginning. China has just been admitted into the World Trade Organization (WTO), which means it will become even more of a player in the world economy, and we better be prepared for the competition.

As a member of the WTO, China will have even greater access now to the North American and European markets. This could mean China displacing exports that used to come from other Asian countries, including the Philippines. We simply can't compete with many of the Chinese products, which are produced at lower cost and with greater efficiency.

We already see that advantage with the products they've been exporting to the Philippines—their apples, pears and oranges are now cheaper than our own fruits, and are sold everywhere, even in smaller towns in the country.

In the short term, all this looks good since it means cheaper goods for local consumers. But I worry about the long-term effects. This import liberalization is also supposed to prod local manufacturers to be more competitive, but I have serious doubts this will happen. We have to seriously review all our economic and social policies as China flexes its economic clout.

Observers agree that China is competitive mainly because of its cheap labor costs, but this is only half the picture. China has low wages but it also has a fairly strong social infrastructure that allows those wages to go a long way. The basics—housing, food, education, health, transportation—are fairly low-cost.

I've heard business people saying the Chinese have a stronger work ethic than Filipinos. I don't quite agree. I'd say instead that the Chinese have a greater motivation to work, knowing that their wages aren't just for survival but that there's enough to save up for a few luxuries and comforts in life. China's domestic tourism is growing rapidly but this is happening only because people can take holidays without worrying about lost income, and because they have money to spend on those holidays. When people's quality of life improves, work productivity will increase.

That's different from what's happening in the Philippines, where even university professors have to sell insurance and underwear to make ends meet. That's hard work, too, but because it's spread out with all kinds of moonlighting, productivity suffers.

There's a second advantage that China has built over the years, and this is its capabilities in science and technology. After years of anti-Western xenophobia, the Chinese are now picking up on the Japanese model for development. Like the Japanese in the 1950s, the Chinese are still in a copycat stage but they're catching up with a vengeance. An "Amoisonic" DVD player, for example, now costs the equivalent of P5,000, less than half the cost of a Japanese player.

It's not just DVD machines. The Chinese are using technology to add value to all kinds of products. Visit local Chinese groceries and you'll be shocked at how the Chinese have repackaged ordinary food items (even salted eggs are now vacuum-packed). These little add-on techno gimmicks—and that includes the blinking lights around religious images—may be kitschy but they do expand the market.

I don't want to idealize the Chinese situation. Participation in the WTO means the Chinese government has to give up many subsidies and this will mean, at least in the short term, a loss of many jobs. The Chinese government knows it's taking a chance, but they have more safety nets in place than we do. Globalization is there primarily to serve local needs, a way for Chinese products to penetrate global markets to generate more capital that is then used to build Chinese businesses and industries.

Unfortunately it's the other way around in the Philippines, globalization serving to satisfy our insatiable appetite for imported goods. It's too much money going out, never to return to expand local industries. The prospects are not good. If we don't get our act together, we're going to end up as consumers of other countries' products. Be more conscious when you're doing your Christmas shopping and you'll notice not just Chinese fruits and DVD players but even Thai *patis* and *sampalok*, and Indonesian kitchenware.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

How gov't can help people spend less

IF the government cannot help the people earn more, it should help them spend less. Here are some of the ways it can do this:

1. By regulating the prices of medicines especially antibiotic, antipyretic, anti-diarrhea and vitamins—some of them often used by the common people.

2. By regulating doctors' professional fees. Most of the doctors charge P400 per consultation. That is more than a day's wage for a person earning P12,000 a month. Doctors should charge socialized rates based on the paying capacity of the patient. Toward the realization of a nation of healthy citizens, doctors should be required to set aside one day a week to serve the common people charging socialized rates.

3. By regulating parking fees being charged in malls. At the Makati Commercial Center, parking inside parking buildings used to cost P20 for the first three hours. Now it costs P25. Street parking on Ayala used to cost P15, but now this has been increased to P20. Question: Is Ayala authorized to collect street parking fees considering that all streets in Makati belong now to the city government?

4. By regulating parking fees being collected by the Makati City government. It should lower the excessive street parking fees from the present P30 for the first three hours to only P15.

5. The City Council of Makati should amend its ordinance requiring motorists to remove their vehicles from designated street parking spaces before 5 p.m. It is unreasonable because office hours usually extend up to 5 p.m. By the time the owners of the vehicles reach the parking area, it is way past 5 p.m. The suggested amendment should extend the start of towing at 5:30 p.m. to give employees enough time to remove their vehicles.

6. To help graduating college students, Malacañang should require the companies in which they are undergoing on-the-job-training to provide a subsidy equivalent to the cost of a simple lunch and round-trip transportation. Student nurses working in hospitals in fulfillment of their academic requirements should also be given the same subsidy. Some hospitals expect the student nurses to do the work of regular staff in order to cut down costs.

7. Regulate the expressway charges. If we are to compare the toll charges at the South Luzon Expressway with those at the North Luzon Expressway, we can readily see that the former has been overcharging the motorists. For example: from Balintawak to Tabang—a distance of 25 kilometers—the toll is only P7 or 28 centavos per kilometer. In order to be very fair, the SLEX should charge the same rate.

8. Regulate the deposit required of patients upon admission to a hospital. For example, the Chinese General Hospital requires a deposit of P3,000 at P320 per day for a ward with eight patients; P5,000 deposit at P620 per day for a semiprivate room for four to five persons; and P8,000 at P950 per day for a private room. Such deposits and daily room charges must be more reasonable.

9. Regulate tuition and the modes of payment. Schools should allow payment of tuition and other fees on a monthly basis to help students who cannot afford to pay bigger amounts right away.—**L. ENCHONG SEE, enchong@eudoramail.com**

Helping turn the economy around

I WOULD like to share some suggestions that may improve our economy and generate jobs for millions of Filipinos. Filipinos who are well off play a major role in this task of economic survival.

First, invest your surplus funds on agricultural ventures and enterprises. Encourage our businessmen to concentrate on providing enough food for all Filipinos.

Second, buy only Filipino-made goods. (Avoid buying smuggled or imported goods). We should use the little we have to support our local industries.

Third, use your spare time studying entrepreneurship or learning a new business. Make yourself productive all the time.

Fourth, cut down on recreation and entertainment expenses and save the amount in our local banks.

Fifth, encourage all Filipinos to save. If every Filipino saves P10 a day, local banks will have about P750 million more each day to lend to Filipino businessmen at lower interest rates.

Sixth, help boost Philippine tourism by inviting friends and relatives abroad to visit twice a year. Every dollar spent in the Philippines reduces our foreign debt.

Seventh, if you are fortunately employed, you are encouraged to go the extra mile for your company and your country. Many people are just using 70 percent of their abilities. A 20 to 25 percent increase in individual productivity is attainable.

Eighth, the government should provide additional tax incentives for companies that employ more than 50 employees or workers.

Ninth, tariffs on imported production and agricultural equipment should be reduced.

Tenth, respect property rights, observe the rule of law and vote only for qualified persons.

Rather than dwell on the things we cannot change, let us focus on these actions that can help move our economy forward, provide more internal resources (capital), and increase our employment rate. I believe that 75 million Filipinos acting together can make life better for all Filipinos.—**RAFFY PERFECTO, 15 Fuji St., BF Homes, Parañaque City**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
2nd Floor ICC Bldg. NIA Complex
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. IV invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to prequalify and bid for services to implement Community Organizing work in Honda Bay, Pto. Princesa City, Palawan under the Income Diversification Component of the Fisheries Resources Management Project (FRMP).

BAY: Honday Bay
PROVINCE: Palawan
CITY: Puerto Princesa
COASTAL BARANGAYS: Langogan, Binduyan, Concepcion, Tanabag, San Rafael, Manalo, Babuyan, Maayon, Lucbuan, Maroyugon, Salvacion, Sta. Cruz, Bacungan, Sta. Lourdes, Tagburos, San Jose, San Manuel, San Miguel

NGOs that are to be considered for prequalification must have at least five years relevant experience on community organizing for coastal resource management and livelihood development in the province and city mentioned above.

The general scope of work involves organizations work to establish community based organization; continuing assistance to the community organizations to build up membership and develop leadership and capability in undertaking coastal resource management and micro-enterprise activities; and assistance in FRMP implementation at local levels.

Amount the specific activities to be undertaken by the selected NGO include:

1. Strengthening of fisherfolk associations and other self-help groups in the coastal communities to engage in income diversification and micro-enterprise activities;
2. Initiation of primary cooperatives to essentially become multi-purpose cooperatives, giving more attention to complementation of water-based and land-based activities;
3. Assist BFAR in the conduct of education and training that is focused in mobilizing the organizational capability of their cooperatives to access external opportunities and potentials towards empowerment.
4. Assist BFAR in the conduct of LGU planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of various CRM concepts and best practices; and
5. Continue the unfinished scope of work by the previous contracted NGO in the said Bay.

Interested NGOs must submit notarized prequalification statements together with the required documents to the BFAR Regional Office No. IV which have jurisdiction over the areas where they are interested in working. Documents must be properly "tabbed" to correspond with each prequalification requirement and should be received not later than 5:00 P.M. on NOVEMBER 23, 2001. Attention: The Chairperson, Prequalification, Evaluation and Awards Committee. Forms for prequalification may be obtained from the BFAR Regional Office No. IV.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR MS. ROSA F. MACAS
ADDRESS: 2/F ICC Bldg., NIA Road, NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS: 926-8616 (Telefax); 926-1901, 926-6071 to 79 Local 192, 193 & 194

BFAR Regional Office No. IV reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as to waive any defect or informality in the submitted bid documents. It also reserves the prerogative to accept any bid it may consider as most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ROSA F. MACAS
Regional Director

(PDI--Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2001)

NUKE ARMS CONTROL

Putin matches Bush on cutbacks

WASHINGTON—Russian President Vladimir Putin is matching President George W. Bush in pledging to make deep cuts in nuclear weapons stockpiles. But the outlook for an accord on anti-missile defenses is murky as they shift their summit talks to Bush's Texas ranch.

Both leaders affirmed Tuesday they had too many nuclear weapons. Both spoke of slashing their arsenals of long-range warheads to about one-third the current size. Bush prefers an informal arrangement; Putin prefers a traditional arms control accord.

But both also are signaling they are flexible, giving every indication that procedure will not block their intent to do away with thousands of nuclear weapons.

Bush, who took the first step at a White House news conference after meeting with Putin for three hours in the Oval Office, said his proposal to set a new US ceiling of 1,700 to 2,200 long-range warheads over the next decade was "fully consistent with American security."

"The current levels of our nuclear forces do not reflect today's strategic realities," he said before leaving for his home in Crawford, Texas.

Putin matched him in a speech later at the Russian Embassy.

"Security is created not by piles of metal or weapons," Putin said. "It is created by political will of people, nation-states and their leaders."

So, the Russian president said, in light of a new and warm US-Russian relationship, Russia could afford to reduce its arsenal to one-third or less.

The United States now has about 7,000 intercontinental-range nuclear warheads and Russia about 5,800.

Still, Putin said, he preferred codifying the reductions in formal agreements. "The world is far from having international relations based solely on trust, unfortunately," he said.

And Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Russia would keep pushing for a formal agreement. "To make it more reliable, we need to put it down in a treaty," he said. "It doesn't mean we distrust anyone. Just the opposite. It would consolidate and boost our relations."

Bush, on the other hand, said he saw no need for "endless hours" of negotiations.

But both leaders signaled their willingness to compromise.

Swinging a deal on anti-missile defenses is likely to be more difficult.

Senior administration officials said they did not expect an agreement on missile defenses before the summit talks end Thursday in Texas.

Bush wants to go ahead with a testing program that inevitably will run up against the prohibitions of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Putin, who considers the treaty a cornerstone of arms control, said "the position of Russia remains unchanged."

Even so, there apparently is room for bargaining, if not this week then when Bush goes to Moscow, possibly in January.

"Let's look together at what tests you need," Ivanov said. "If such tests don't violate the treaty, why discard it? We don't think that the ABM treaty is outdated."

If they were at a dead end, Bush likely would assert the right to withdraw from the treaty. But a senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the president would not take that final step during the current talks.

Bush hopes to persuade Putin to allow the United States to proceed with research and development of a missile shield without declaring the work a violation of the 1972 pact. In exchange, Bush promised Putin to keep Russia informed of the tests. US officials said the proposal would give both men what they want: Bush could begin developing a missile shield and Putin could tell his public that he kept the ABM intact. *AP*

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Israel urged to give up all settlements

JERUSALEM—A leading Palestinian official said Tuesday that Israel must "come to terms" with an unbending Palestinian demand that in exchange for a peace agreement, it will have to leave all of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, removing hundreds of thousands of settlers from their homes.

The Palestinians for their part must understand that Israel will not accept a "right of return" by some four million refugees and descendants into its territory, Sari Nusseibeh, the top PLO official in Jerusalem, told a meeting of the Foreign Press Association. The refugee issue helped scuttle peace talks a year ago.

"The Palestinian demand is for a state of Palestine in the entirety of the territories occupied in 1967, no settlements, no Israeli control," said Nusseibeh, a philosophy professor and confidant of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who has won increasing prominence since his appointment two months ago.

There was no Israeli reaction to Nusseibeh's comments, which came amid US efforts to revive an Israeli-Palestinian peace process after nearly 14 months of fighting. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been a major patron of the three-decade settlement effort and has opposed the removal of any settlers.

In a speech to the UN General Assembly Saturday, US President George W. Bush called for creation of a state of Palestine living beside Israel, and Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to flesh out the initiative.

There is some apprehension about this in Israel, where many lost faith in peace after Arafat last year rejected what Israeli officials say was an offer of a state in Gaza, more than 90 percent of the West Bank and parts of East Jerusalem. Barak hoped to keep bits of the West Bank land where most settlers lived. *AP*

No agreement in Korea talks

SEOUL—Talks aimed at reviving reconciliation efforts between North and South Korea ended with no agreement Wednesday, and a South Korean official said it could be a long time before the two sides reopen their dialogue.

The official said the main obstacle was the North's anger over the South's participation in the anti-terrorism campaign that the United States launched after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The six-day Cabinet-level talks at the hardline communist North's Diamond Mountain resort were closed to Western reporters, but a pool report by South Korean journalists who covered the event said: "There was no announcement of agreement, and our delegation is returning by ship."

Later Wednesday, the ship carrying the Southern delegates returned to the South's eastern port of Sokcho.

It was the first time that Cabinet-level, inter-Korean talks have ended in dispute since the two nations' leaders held their historic summit in Pyongyang in June 2000. Wednesday's setback is a major setback for South Korean President Kim Dae-jung who won the Nobel Peace Prize that year for his efforts to promote reconciliation with the North.

Kim has been criticized at home by opposition parties for catering too much to Kim Jong-il, the reclusive and demanding leader of North Korea, despite his country's isolation and severe economic problems.

That criticism continued Wednesday, when the South's main opposition Grand National Party issued a statement saying: "The rash North Korean attitude was the result of the (South Korean) government's sunshine (reconciliation) policy, which has been pushed recklessly." *AP*

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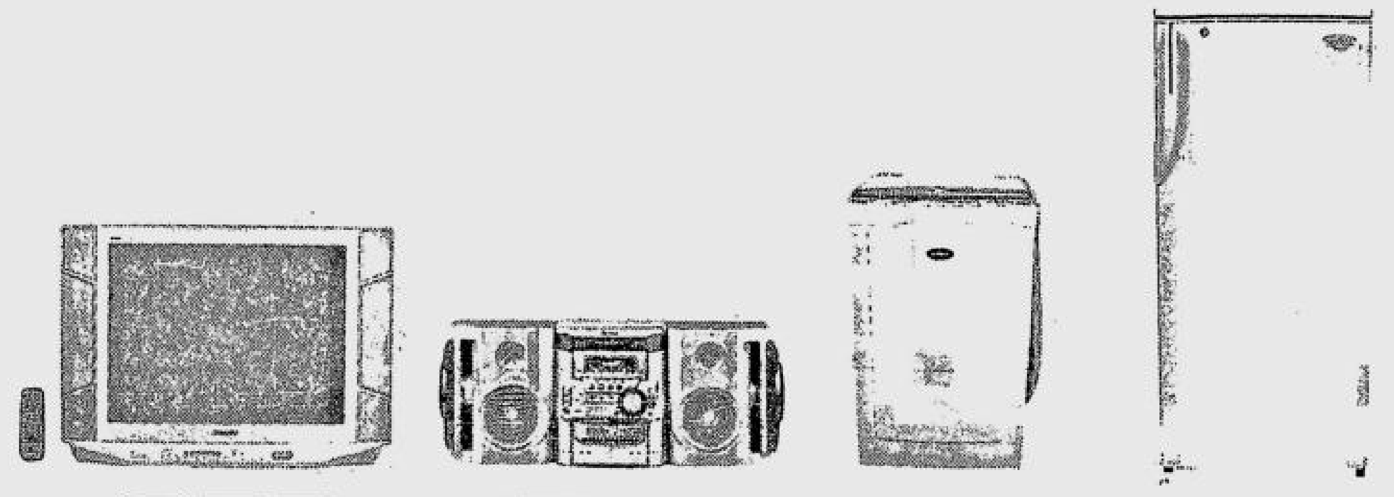

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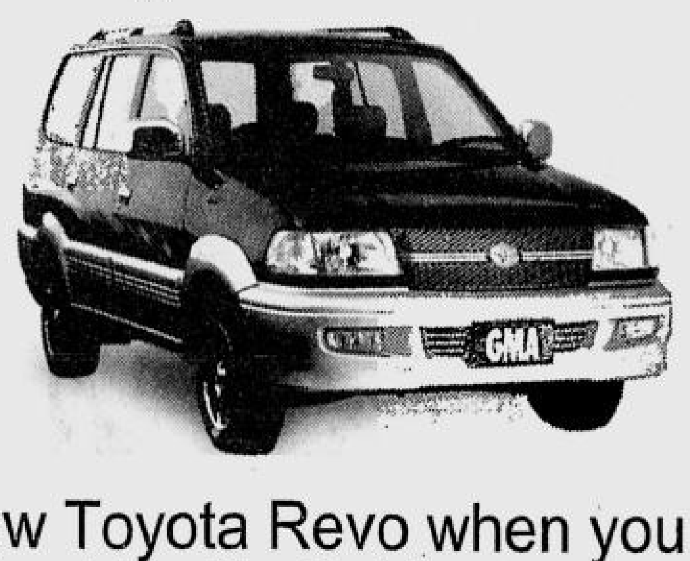

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US military courts to try int'l terrorists

WASHINGTON—The Sept. 11 attacks and the threat of new terrorism justify President George W. Bush's decision to approve the use of military tribunals the likes of which the United States has not seen since World War II, administration officials say.

Bush approved use of such a court Tuesday, should anyone ever be called to justice for terror assaults. His emergency order does not require approval from Congress.

"This is a new tool to use against terrorism," White House Counsel Albert Gonzales said.

A special military court could try accused terrorists in greater secrecy than a conventional court, and much more quickly, lawyers in and out of government said.

Rules for such a court could give the government a freer hand to introduce evidence or statements that probably would be excluded from a regular criminal trial, and military jurors might be more likely to vote for a death sentence, said David B. Rivkin, a Washington lawyer who published a legal paper on Bush's options this month.

Convicted terrorists might be executed shortly after a trial, with few or none of the long delays for additional court appeals common in criminal courts, lawyers said.

"The easy way (for the government) to go is a military commission," former military prosecutor A. Jeff Ifrah said.

Unlike US district courts or military courts martial, "a commission is governed by whatever the president and to a certain extent the Congress dictate," Ifrah added.

Military commissions date to the late 17th century, operating side by side with the better-known court martials. The United States last convened one on orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt after German saboteurs secretly landed on US shores in 1942.

Detention and trial of accused terrorists by a military tribunal is necessary "to protect the United States and its citizens, and for the effective conduct of military operations and prevention of terrorist attacks," Bush's five-page order said.

The administration also could hold a trial in an ordinary criminal court, but said it wanted the option of using a military court.

In either a military or a civilian court, any suspect would retain rights to a lawyer and to a trial by jury, the administration said.

"These are extraordinary times and the president wants to have as many options as possible. This option does not preclude any Department of Justice options that might also be available," said Mindy Tucker, a justice department spokesperson.

Bush's order sets out many of the rules for a future military tribunal and the rights of anyone held accountable there. A senior justice department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said only noncitizens would be tried before the commission. *AP*

5,000 foreigners sought

WASHINGTON—Investigators are knocking on the doors of Middle Eastern visitors in the United States and looking through the files of foreign students as part of a widening terrorism inquiry, sparking complaints about racial profiling.

State and federal agents are questioning 5,000 male foreigners from Middle Eastern and other countries, and investigators have contacted more than 200 colleges and universities seeking information about foreign students from Arab and Muslim nations.

Authorities say those sought for questioning are not suspects but are wanted for voluntary interviews because investigators believe they might have information that will help police find those who planned the Sept. 11 attacks and others planning new attacks.

They are being targeted because they fit the criteria of people who might have knowledge of foreign-based terrorists and not because of their nationality, according to a justice department memo.

None will be forced to submit to interviews; those who choose to speak to investigators can have lawyers present.

Civil rights groups say investigators are threatening the basic privacy rights of people from particular ethnic groups. "We have serious concerns about what appears to be a dragnet approach rather than a targeted investigation," said Lucas Guttentag, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's immigration rights project.

Only those who traveled from nations that have been way stations for terrorists in Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network were placed on the list, said justice department spokesperson Mindy Tucker, who declined to specify which countries were targeted. *AP*

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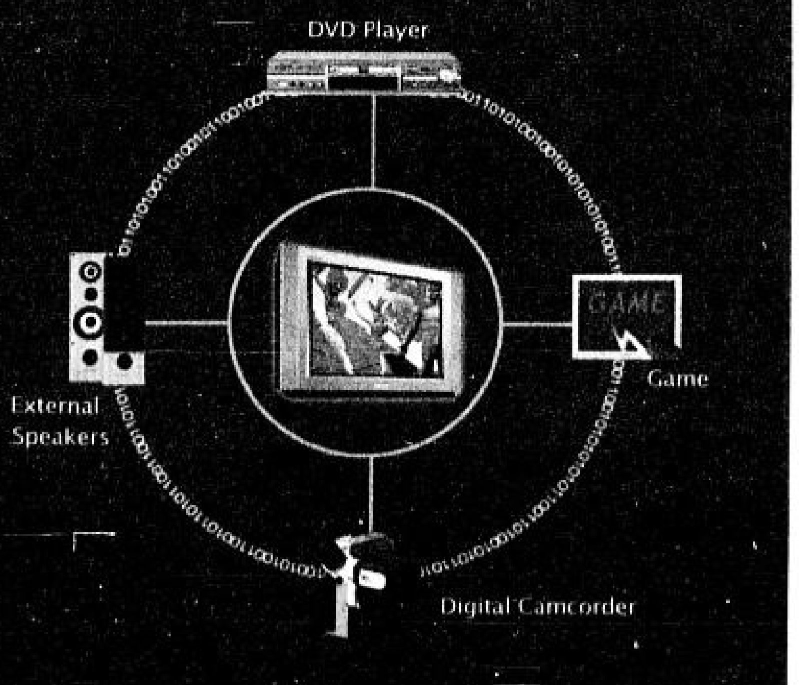

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FLIGHT 587

Rattling noise heard in cockpit

NEW YORK—The cockpit voice recorder from American Flight 587 indicates the pilots struggled to control the jetliner after a rattling was heard less than two minutes into takeoff, investigators reported.

George Black Jr. of the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday that investigators did not yet know what caused the "airframe rattling noise," but witnesses describe a remarkably similar story.

"They saw the aircraft wobble . . . and saw pieces come from it and then it went into a steep spiral and dived into the ground," Black said at an evening news conference.

The pilots on Flight 587 also spoke of encountering wake turbulence, which is believed to have contributed to other deadly airline crashes. Black said a Japan Airlines jumbo jet took off two minutes and 20 seconds before Flight 587—a full 20 seconds longer than the normal separation time between takeoffs.

Black said it was too early to say if there was any relationship between the noises or the turbulence and Monday's crash. All 260 people aboard were killed when the plane broke apart and plunged into a Queens neighborhood after leaving nearby Kennedy Airport. Five more people were missing and feared dead on the ground.

Investigators say there is no evidence of sabotage so far and all signs point to a catastrophic mechanical problem.

"We're not ruling anything out until we have got our information more fully developed than we do. But everything says so far we're looking at an accident site," NTSB chair Marion Blakey said.

The first portion of the flight to the Dominican Republic appeared normal, with the co-pilot at the controls. But 107 seconds after the plane started its takeoff roll, a rattling was heard; 14 seconds later, there is a second rattle, Black said.

Twenty-three seconds later—after "several comments suggesting loss of control"—the cockpit voice recording ends, he said. From takeoff to the end of the tape lasts less than 2 minutes, 24 seconds.

The plane's other black box, the flight data recorder, was recovered Tuesday after a 24-hour hunt through the neighborhood. The instrument tracks nearly 200 functions, including instruments and engine performance, and investigators hope it will provide clues to what happened.

The NTSB is trying to determine why the vertical stabilizer—or tail fin—and the attached rudder separated in flight just before the crash.

The tail fin was fished out of Jamaica Bay on Monday, a short distance from Rockaway Beach; the rudder was found nearby Tuesday. The rudder, which is supported by the tail fin, controls the plane's turns from side to side.

Agency officials told reporters they do not know what ripped the 7.5-meter-tall tail fin off the fuselage cleanly, as if it had been sliced by a knife. Black said a helicopter tour of the bay showed no other major airplane parts in the water. *AP*

Fed officials looking for anthrax letter

WASHINGTON—Federal officials said Tuesday they believed an anthrax-filled letter that has yet to be found sickened a state department mail handler—a theory bolstered by traces of anthrax in eight spots in the building where he worked.

The state department said it would begin hunting through three weeks' worth of unopened mail, searching for a letter that could advance the anthrax investigation. It wasn't clear why that search had not yet begun, given that health officials have long suspected that an undiscovered letter was to blame.

"We have to assume that, one, there is a contaminated letter of some kind in our system, and second of all, that we will eventually find it in one of these mail rooms or pouch bags," state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

More than two weeks ago, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said it was a virtual certainty that another letter was lurking, undiscovered. But on Tuesday, the state department said it hadn't begun looking sooner for another letter because officials weren't yet convinced one existed.

For its part, the FBI said it didn't press for a quicker search because it doubted that a letter would be found even once they started looking—an assumption disputed by both the state department and the CDC.

Also Tuesday, the last of six people to survive inhalation anthrax came home after 25 days in a suburban Washington hospital. *AP*

Nuke waste shipment arrives in Germany

GORLEBEN, Germany—A shipment of more than 80 tons of nuclear waste arrived at a dump in the north German countryside Wednesday, despite efforts by militant anti-nuclear protesters to block its path.

Six trucks, each carrying a container of waste dispatched Sunday evening from a French reprocessing plant, swung into the Gorleben storage site at about 7 a.m. in a convoy guarded by dozens of police vehicles.

About 20 people jeered and whistled from behind barricades near the dump, the final gesture from demonstrators who defied some 15,000 police to stage protests along the shipment's 1,400-km route.

Germany sends its nuclear waste to France and Britain for reprocessing, but has been slow to take it back for storage because of decades of political wrangling over where to put it and the safety of shipping it half way across Europe.

Wednesday's delivery was only the fifth so far to Gorleben, where the special containers are placed in a hangar-like building above a disused salt mine that residents fear will become a permanent storage site.

Opponents say neither the containers nor the old mine are safe—especially in the light of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. Shipments already were halted for four years in 1997 because of radioactive leaks on the containers.

"Gorleben is no safer than any other nuclear installation in Germany from a targeted attack," said Boris Jarosch, a 25-year-old student from Berlin, after watching the convoy sweep through the gates in the gray dawn.

Germany's well-organized anti-nuclear movement blamed the war in Afghanistan for their inability to muster the thousands of activists who protested the last shipment in March, but police had warned that a hard core were more determined than ever to cause disruption.

Riot police cleared more protesters overnight from along the final 20 km of road from the town of Dannenberg, where a crane lifted the containers from rail wagons onto the waiting trucks. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	HI 28° Lo 25°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/15/01

ROUNDUP

4 suspected rebs slain

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—At least four suspected members of the New People's Army were killed in two encounters with government soldiers in Oriental Mindoro on Monday and Tuesday. The soldiers also overran a rebel camp in Barangay Maria Concepcion, Socorro town. Southern Luzon Command spokesperson Maj. Gerard Velez said soldiers under the 16th Infantry Battalion chanced upon the rebels in Sitio Matucao, Barangay Balugo, in Mansalay town on Monday. After a 15-minute firefight, the rebels retreated, leaving behind the bodies of their two comrades. On Tuesday, two more rebels were killed in Sitio Nayong Pilipino, Barangay Maria Concepcion. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Danding elected NPC chair

BACOLOD CITY—Businessman Eduardo Cojuanco was elected chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition. Before his election, Cojuanco was the party's chairman emeritus. Former Rizal Rep. Frisco San Juan was chosen president during the election Monday, which was attended by 100 NPC members at the Edsa Shangri-la. Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma said they would conduct a massive recruitment campaign nationwide as "what we have is a reborn NPC."

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Syndicate member nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Agents of the Special Task Group-Mindanao Area Office arrested a suspected member of a syndicate dealing in spurious bank checks. The agents arrested Christopher Paclibar on Monday while he was about to withdraw P947,275.87 from his account at the Phil. National Bank-Monteverde Branch. Charges of violation of Article 168 of the revised penal code, known as Possession and Use of False Treasury, Bank Notes and Other Instruments of Credits have been filed against Paclibar.

Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

4 villagers slain

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A village captain and his three companions were killed when suspected bandits shot them at dawn Tuesday in Maligo, Polomolok, South Cotabato. The victims were identified as Henry Bolatin, 34, chair of Barangay Lumakil, Polomolok; Erwin Bolatin, 23; Marvin Guillero and Ernesto de los Santos. Another victim survived the attack and is being treated at the Socsargen Hospital. South Cotabato police director Supt. Bonfilo Dacoco told reporters that the four men were taking a break from hunting when nine unidentified armed men arrived. After the two groups took their meals, the suspects began shooting the victims.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Support for anti-drug bid

LUCENA CITY—Quezon board member Vicente Alcala has called on the provincial government to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's National Anti-Drug Program of Action for a drug-free country. He asked Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga to give out supplementary reading materials in schools for the anti-drug education program. He also asked Quezon congressmen to give funds for the Drug Testing Center. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Water for the poor

SAN ANTONIO, Quezon—The P11-million water system project dubbed as "Patubig Para sa Masa" has been started in this town. The project would help give enough water to almost all households in the poblacion. The mayor said the residents of his town are now filing their applications for inclusion as early beneficiaries of the modern water system.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reward for drug tipsters

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Cash incentives have been put up to boost the fight against illegal drugs here, said Mayor David Emralino. Cash rewards would be given to tipsters for information that could lead to the arrest of suspected drug pushers. The reward would be based on the value of the seized illegal drugs and the notoriety of the arrested drug pushers.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

No free electricty

CANDELARIA, Quezon—A new regulation that requires all vendors in the town's public market to secure electric meter for their stalls is being implemented here. The new policy aims to stop the irregular practice of subsidizing the vendors' use of electricity, said Mayor David Emralino. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Less than half of farmers who lost land to dam paid

ARAYAT, Pampanga—Only 2,100 of 7,000 farming families have been paid for their land covered by a P3.4-billion Japanese-funded irrigation project here.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), however, assured that additional funds have been requested for right-of-way (ROW) payments.

Reynaldo Mencias, project manager of the Pampanga Delta development project-irrigation component, said the NIA has asked the National Economic and Development Authority to approve an increase in the ROW budget from P133 million to P300 million.

"It (NIA's request) has been submitted for review and reconsideration," Mencias told the INQUIRER.

The ROW budget is part of the government's P755.74-million counterpart in the project, which intends to irrigate 10,270 hectares in Arayat, Santa Ana, Mexico, San Luis, San Simon and Candaba towns, all in Pampanga.

The project cost, funded by Japan's 17th loan package in 1991, shot up to P4.2 billion due to the appreciation of the yen and the increase in the value of land.

Project reports obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the NIA has paid farmers at least P38 to 70 per square meter of agricultural land, P200 per sq. m. of residential land and P1,500 to P2,000 per sq. m. of commercial land.

The NIA has spent P124 million on ROW claims, Mencias reported.

Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991, the documentation of ROW claims, payment of capital gains, tax and negotiations on the price of land have delayed the project implementation, Mencias said.

The dam, the first of its kind in Asia to be fitted with shell-type movable roller gates, was designed to divert water from the Pampanga River to the six towns for year-round irrigation.

Eight months to its scheduled inauguration in May next year, the dam, already 92 percent completed, is now irrigating 1,500 hectares of farms mainly in Arayat, San Luis and Sta. Ana, Mencias said.

Its main canal and 34 lateral canals are 83 percent completed.

Earlier called the FVR Dam after former President Fidel V. Ramos and Erap Dam after ousted President Joseph Estrada, the project may end up being named the Diosdado Macapagal Dam, as Arayat officials have proposed.

Mencias said the project's Japanese consultants and Filipino engineers have also begun a study on how to prevent flooding in the nearby San Antonio swamp in Nueva Ecija as a result of the construction of the dam.

The 15,000-hectare swamp and the dam are of the same elevation, at 8.5 meters. Farmers have aired fears that water from the dam, if the dam is filled, may spill toward the swamp bounded by Cabiao, San Antonio and Jaen towns, all in Nueva Ecija.

Some portions of the swamp were distributed in 1994 for the government's land reform program. At least 70 percent of the swamp is now planted to rice and vegetables, it was learned.

Mencias said the NIA might build check gates around the swamp to reduce the floods there.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

NEW THREATS VALHANDUMON

Members of the Moro National Liberation Front who remain loyal to Nur Misuari show off their firearms during a recent MNLF congress in Parang, Jolo, Sulu.

Mayor's son, 3 others sued for robbery killing

By ALEX [illegible] PA[illegible]
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGU[illegible]TY [illegible] [illegible]nagers, including a son o[illegible] [illegible]al ma[illegible] [illegible]harged with robbery with hom[illegible] [illegible]n con[illegible] [illegible] killing of a public school teacher on [illegible]

Police filed the charg[illegible] Monday before [illegible] Municipal Circuit Trial Cour[illegible] B[illegible]ong-Valencia bas[illegible] Valencia town, about nine [illegible]eters west of here.

Among those charged was the 17-year-old son of a municipal mayor and three of his friends. The mayor's son is also a nephew of a high-ranking provincial official. Another suspect was the boyfriend of the mayor's daughter.

The four, who were all friends and members of a dance troupe in Dumaguete, were accused of killing Naido Chirivias, a teacher of the West City Elementary School in Dumaguete.

But the mayor said it was impossible for his son to be involved in the killing because his son was already at home when the killing took place.

"He and his dancing buddies were at the Quezon Park. Then he went to the shop along Larena Drive where his motorcycle was being repaired. He was home by 7 p.m. We watched TV together," the mayor said.

Lie detector

The mayor also said his son was never into drugs and was even willing to take a lie detector test. "He and Chirivias were very close friends. There's absolutely no way my son could have killed his friend. That's not our style. We don't even kill our political opponents," the mayor said.

Chirivias was believed killed on the night of Oct. 1. His body was found the morning after in a farm lot in barangay West Balabag, Valencia.

His body, which was dressed only in a pair of shorts, bore a single fatal stab wound in the chest and multiple superficial lacerated wounds in other parts.

Missing were the victim's personal belongings worth P27,900—his cell phone, a gold necklace, wristwatch, leather sandals and wallet.

Police later recovered Chirivias' motorcycle in Barangay Bajumpandan, Dumaguete, along with a bloodied gray T-shirt with four holes in it, and a jacket.

Lawyer Joel Obar, private prosecutor for the Chirivias family, said five witnesses saw the suspects with the victim between 7 to 8 p.m. of Oct. 1.

Other witnesses

He added that two more witnesses might decide to corroborate other witnesses' testimony.

One of the suspects needed the money to pay the loan he obtained when his baby was hospitalized, Obar said. Chirivias, on the other hand, was known to have money because he had just facilitated a land deal, he added.

Obar said the names of two of the suspects were written at the back of Chirivias' bedroom door. Near the two names was the word "death."

"We don't know who wrote them," Obar said, because only the victim had access to his bedroom.

Obar admitted that what they had against the suspects were all pieces of circumstantial evidence. "We will look into the motives of each of the suspects as whoever has the motive is most likely the one who did the crime," he added.

ARMY REPORT

Rebs behind cell site attacks slain

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A New People's Army commander, before dying in a clash where four communist rebels were also killed Wednesday, admitted his unit was responsible for the arson attack on a Globe Telecom transmission facility in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, last week, Army reports said.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, the Army's Northern Luzon commander, said the admission was given by an NPA commander identified only as "Ka Rico." Garcia said Ka Rico led the NPA's guerrilla unit "Gucci" composed of about 20 combatants.

Ka Rico, captured after a 5 a.m. firefight in Barangay Talabatab Norte in General Natividad, Nueva Ecija, died of blood loss while being taken by soldiers to the hospital, Garcia said.

He said Ka Rico volunteered the information without being coerced.

Garcia did not say, however, if the NPA commander admitted demanding revolutionary taxes from the Globe Telecom.

The other slain rebels remained unidentified.

Army reports said the NPA unit encountered soldiers from the 71st Infantry Battalion and Nueva Ecija police pursing the rebels behind the cell site attacks.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, said the unit was some 800 meters from the Globe transmission tower in Talabatab Norte.

General Natividad town is three towns away from Muñoz where the first attack on Globe transmission facilities was carried out on Saturday night.

The clash lasted for an hour, Army reports said.

Army Sgt. Modesto Pablo was wounded during the encounter but he was reported to be out danger.

Army officials said government troopers and policemen seized two M-16 Armalite rifles, two baby Armalite rifles and an M-203 grenade launcher.

The rebels fled toward Bongabon town near the border of Aurora province.

Berroya and Garcia, in separate interviews, said government operations are ongoing against the perpetrators of the arson attacks on the transmission facilities of Globe, Smart and Piltel in Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Vice gov appeals for tourism drive

PAMPANGA Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said the province should intensify its tourism and investment drive to fill the glut resulting from the worldwide tourism and investment slowdown triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States.

Arroyo made the statement as he prepared to join the delegation of President Macapagal-Aroyo on her state visit to the United States.

In his statement, he said he would appeal to natives of Pampanga who are now successful in the States "to come home for a visit or invest in small, medium or large (scale) enterprises, including building their own heritage and vacation homes now that the threat of lahar from Mount Pinatubo is gone."

Arroyo said thousands of native Kapampangans now reside and work in San Francisco, New York, Washington D.C. and San Diego and Los Angeles, California.

"There is a worldwide slump in tourism and investment, so our country now depends on overseas Filipinos," Arroyo said.

Arroyo said his mother's administration has started efforts to put in operation the Clark International Airport by re-naming it President Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

Reward for capture of Abu leader turns controversial

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A ranking police official in Central Mindanao returned the P500,000 reward money given to him for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Sabdullah alias Commander Global and his three followers.

Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, police chief for Central Mindanao, said he decided to give back the money to the regional office of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) in order to bail his office out of a controversy.

Raval said he did not ask for the money and that it was personally delivered to his office by Nica-Central Mindanao chief Joemari Tuclaud.

Earlier, an informer, who tipped off the hideout of the Abu Sayyaf to government authorities, complained that Tuclaud slashed P1.5 million from the P8-million prize money given to him by the national government.

Sabdullah and his three aides were arrested on July 8 by a raiding team of the police, Nica and the Army in Lote, Barangay Calumpang here.

Sabdullah had a P5-million bounty on his head, while each of his three colleagues carried a P1-million reward.

The informer claimed that Tuclaud got P500,000 and gave the same amount each to Raval and the 601st Army Brigade commander.

The informer also said Tuclaud let him sign the check, got it and had it encashed in one of the Landbank branches here.

Raval confirmed that he received the amount, but he said it remained intact until the time he ordered its return to Tuclaud.

"We didn't ask for it," Raval said.

The government has offered millions of pesos in reward for the capture, dead or alive, of ranking leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

But the reward offer has not led to the capture of some of the most notorious leaders of the bandit group.

The military continues to pursue the bandits, who are still holding captive several hostages, including an American couple.

Military leaders in command of the pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf were also accused of having connived with the bandits to allow their escape.

The military has repeatedly denied these accusations but a House committee decided to investigate them. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Firm says Bt-corn tests in Isabela successful

'Very high yield' reported in fields

ILAGAN, Isabela—The controversial Bt-corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)-injected corn plants were harvested in Isabela's three trial sites in the past two weeks with "very high yields" compared to the pilot trial conducted in General Santos City.

Dr. Arnold Estrada, product development manager of Monsanto-Philippines, the Bt-corn field trial proponent, said the yield increase is "even higher than the 50-70 percent yield output in General Santos City."

"The trial proved to be successful as we found out that the (Bt-corn) plants have turned over a very good (harvest)," Estrada told the INQUIRER by telephone.

He did not disclose the yield's total volume, saying it would be announced in a press conference this week.

The plants were harvested in trial sites in Barangay Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan town, Barangay Carulay in Echague town and Barangay Villaluna in Cauayan City.

Estrada attributed the good harvest to the rich soil in the province.

He said the genetically modified organism-laced corn plants were found to be highly resistant to the Asiatic corn borer during field trials in Isabela.

The yield was higher than those from ordinary corn varieties like the IPB-911 and the Super Sweet Corn, he said.

The Bt-corn field trials' objectives are to test the variety's resistance to the Asiatic corn borer, evaluate its economic value and its grain quality.

Ten areas in various provinces have been approved as trial sites out of the 32 sites applied for by Monsanto. Five sites are located in Luzon and five are in Mindanao.

Leaders of the Catholic Church and militant groups opposing the Bt-corn field trials, however, remained unfazed by the project's apparent success.

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Diocese of Ilagan chancellor and spokesperson of the Anti-GMO Multisectoral Alliance in Isabela (Agmais), challenged Monsanto officials to present scientific studies on the corn's toxicity, feed and nutritional values.

The Ilagan council has imposed a moratorium on future field tests in the town. But two councilors filed dissenting opinions, saying data from the field tests would only be completed if the second batch of tests (dry season cropping) was allowed to push through. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

5 Chinese held for illegal entry in Pangasinan

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Five Chinese nationals allegedly fishing off Dasol town facing the China Sea were arrested and charged with illegal entry by the police last week.

Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, said "there were indications" that the arrested Chinese could be drug traffickers or human smugglers but they could not charge them with violations of the anti-illegal drugs law or with human smuggling because of lack of evidence.

Instead, police filed illegal entry cdses against Fa Chun Cheung, Lee Chu Ming, Ah Fai, Ah Fo and Lo Yu, after they failed to show valid entry documents.

The Chinese told police that they came from Hong Kong aboard the Yuit Kuay, a 206-ton fishing vessel that they supposedly left near the Dos Hermanas Island in Dasol Bay.

"Their entry is highly suspicious (and we suspected) that they were doing (something) illegal because they said they were fishermen but their fishing vessel had no fishing gear at all. Besides, they were equipped with satellite phones," Mendoza said.

He said some rich Chinese from Binondo, including one claiming to be a policeman, tried to intercede on behalf of the five Chinese.

Mendoza said a certain Melinda Ong of Tondo, Manila, Erick Griando, a certain Ramon and a certain PO1 Arron Ilao also of Tondo, came to Dasol allegedly to help secure the release of the five.

He said Ong told them that they were supposed to bring the five Chinese to Bulacan.

Mendoza said they have yet to receive any protest from the Chinese Embassy regarding the arrest of the five.

Through an interpreter, Fa Chun Cheung and Lee Chu Ming said they went to Pangasinan using a speedboat to buy food.

But local residents reported their presence in the town to the police, Mendoza said.

It was also in Dasol where five Chinese were seen in November 1999 after leaving about 500 kg of shabu on the shores of neighboring Infanta town.

Mendoza said there was a need to deploy Coast Guard personnel in the towns facing the China Sea because the area's long shoreline makes it an easy route for smuggling of drugs and humans.

"Although there is high awareness (in) the community (on) illegal activities, authorities must really consider establishing Coast Guard or maritime stations in the western towns facing the China Sea," he said.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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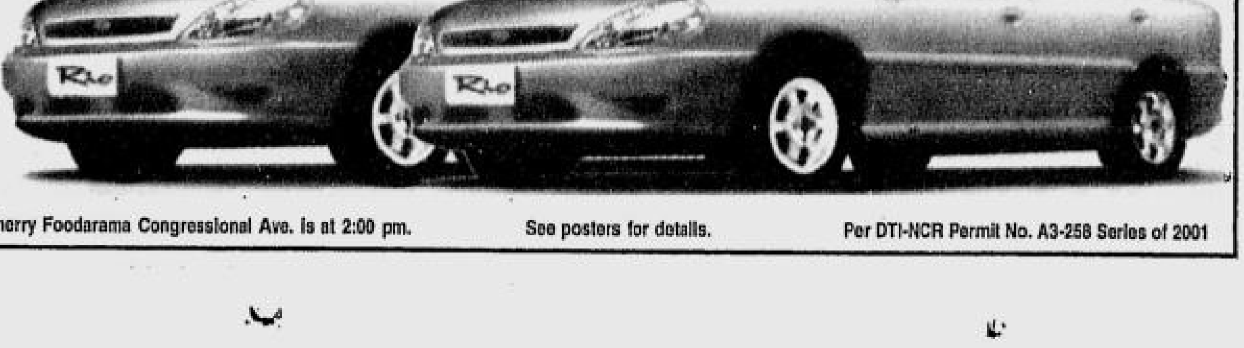

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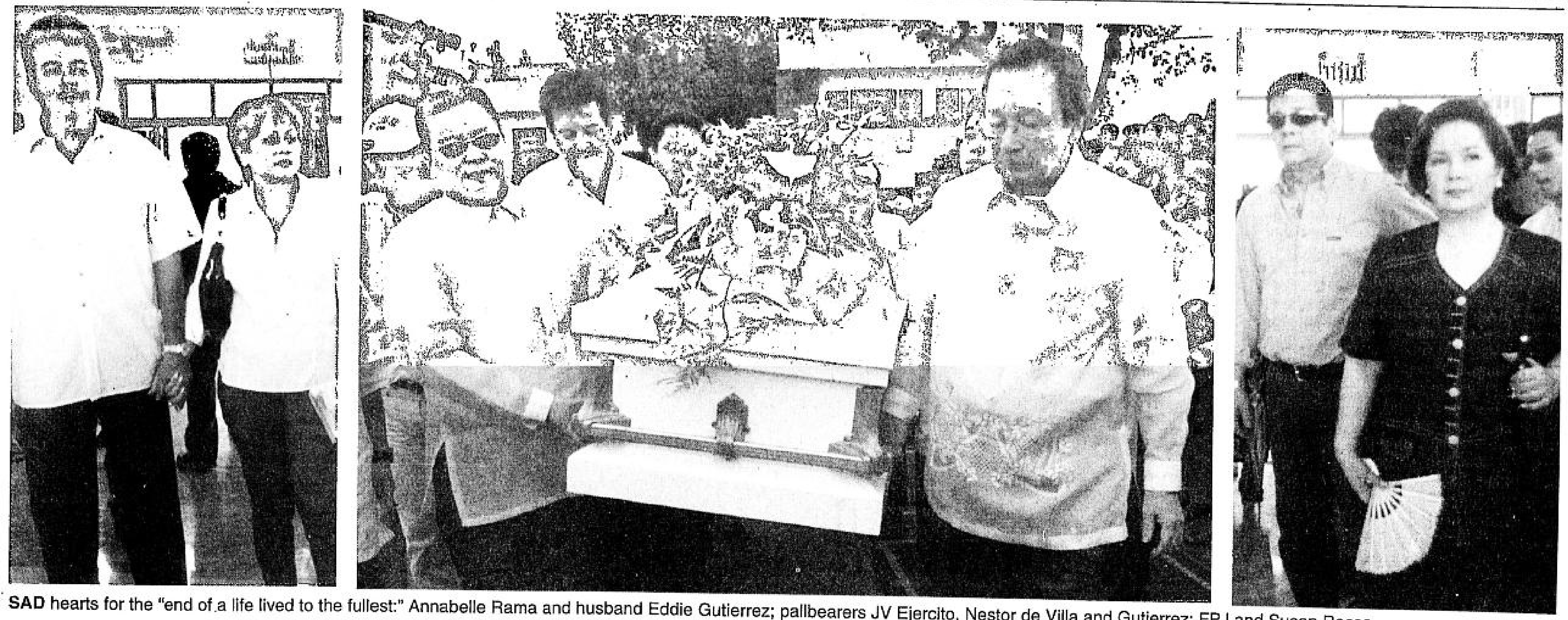

SAD hearts for the "end of a life lived to the fullest:" Annabelle Rama and husband Eddie Gutierrez; pallbearers JV Ejercito, Nestor de Villa and Gutierrez; FPJ and Susan Roces.

JUSTICE for TITA NIDA
FR MARIKINA LADIES

THE MESSAGE is clear from the Nida fans who line both sides of the streets from Libis all the way to her gravesite at the Loyola Memorial Park.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

Nida buried: 'What have they done to my mom?'

(From page A1)

stars, fans, and the merely curious—numbered in the thousands.

They came to bury the star who made life a little more bearable for them through her almost 170 movies and half a dozen TV shows.

"I thank God that I knew you and I worked with you," said Dolphy in his eulogy to Blanca before the 2 p.m. funeral Mass at the Christ the King Chapel in Greenmeadows.

Dolphy starred with Blanca in the 16-year-long TV sitcom, "John en Marsha," which went on to become a series of big-screen blockbusters.

"(My) Marsha will never be gone," Dolphy added. "She will always be with us."

Dolphy managed to humor the weeping crowd when he started his speech with his impish trademark line in the sitcom, "Marsha, wala ang mga bata (the kids are not here)."

"That became a byword among (loving) couples, especially after they just had a fight," he said.

'We love you, Nida'

People lined the streets where the funeral car passed on the way to the gravesite. Even residents of White Plains, where Blanca lived, and Greenmeadows went out to get a glimpse.

Thousands filled both sides of the long stretch of Libis to the Marikina Bypass Road leading to the Riverbank Complex and on to A. Bonifacio Road to the gate of the memorial park.

Some carried placards and posters with the words, "We love you, Nida."

Blanca's fans came all the way from Cainta, Antipolo, Bulacan and Pampanga. They came in buses and jeeps, taking with them packed lunches.

Earlier at the chapel, the Los-Angeles-based Torres moved the mourners to tears when she recalled how her mother loved surprises.

"One morning, I got a phone call in LA, and it was my mom," said Torres, 40, Blanca's only child. "She was already at the airport and she wanted me to pick her up."

She added: "Last December, when I was about to return to the States after my visit here, my mom brought me to the airport. Then she took out two plane tickets from her coat and told me, 'I will go with you.'"

The Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Jaime Mora, parish priest of the White Plains Chapel, where Blanca regularly attended Sunday Mass. The concelebrators were six priests from Christ the King and two others from the Damar Village Chapel.

Torres sat at the front pew of the chapel, with her stepfather Rod Lauren Strunk and grandmother Inocencia Acueza.

"She is my mom and my best friend who loved me unconditionally," Torres said. "She was my guide and mentor. I will miss her voice, her laughter, the long hours on the phone, the family reunions."

A number of show biz stars who worked with Blanca attended the Mass.

Dolphy came with his partner Zsa Zsa Padilla, and Poe, with his wife Susan Roces.

The stars who worked with Blanca at LVN Pictures were there, too—Delia Razon, Marita Zobel, Nestor de Villa, Manding Claro, Luz Valdez, Mila Ocampo, Gloria Sevilla.

There were also Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, Maricel Soriano, Rosa Rosal, Nova Villa, Marissa Delgado, Snooky Serna-Cepeda, Inday Badiday, Maribeth Bichara, Jean Garcia, Maila Gumila, Mat Ranillo III and his sister Suzette Ranillo.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito represented his father, former President Joseph Estrada, who was Blanca's co-star in a number of films.

Ejercito served as pallbearer along with Blanca's husband, De Villa and Eddie Gutierrez.

4 tents

At the Loyola Memorial Park, four huge tents shielded the mourners.

Spotted in the crowd were comedians Palito and Amay Bisaya, producer Marichu Vera-Perez, director Emmanuel Borlaza, action star Tony Ferrer and character actress Gina Pareño.

The Marikina police deployed over 150 cops, barangay officers and traffic aides to control the crowd along the streets and inside the cemetery.

Some stuntmen who attended the burial also assisted in the security measures.

Supt. Salvador Duran of Station 8 in Project 4, Quezon City, supplemented the Marikina security squad with his own team of more than 20 policemen.

The cops were earlier deployed at the White Plains Chapel and Christ the King. They later escorted the cortege from Greenmeadows to Marikina in mobile patrol cars and motorcycles.

Blanca, who was Dorothy Jones in real life, was laid to rest in a grave beside her stepfather, Jose Acueza. It was the actress herself who bought the cemetery lot 36 years ago.

Strunk, Blanca's husband of 22 years, recalled in a eulogy that he always started the day with his wife at the breakfast table.

"Nida touched so many lives, as she touched mine," he said. "She was my wife, my companion, my soulmate, my dear and my beloved who loved me for 22 years."

He described her as "a loving woman who gave love to everyone."

Torres recalled how her mother loved show business.

"Her work was her life. She once told me that she would work as long as God allowed her to use her talents and gifts," Torres said, adding:

"To the fans, she was the effervescent 'Galawgaw' who danced her way to the hearts of many. To all her friends and family, she was Dory, the vibrant person who was always ready to lend a helping hand and listen.

"This is the end of a life that has been lived to the fullest."

'Very happy'

Blanca's 9-year-old nephew, Jed San Jose, based in Canada, wrote a short poem for her which was read by the actress' other nephew and niece.

The poem read: "You have made me very happy . . . You have helped us whenever we're in trouble. And because you are nice, I shall miss you. But we all know the doors of heaven will open up for you and you will be resurrected."

Blanca's show biz friend, Nova Villa, added comic flair in her eulogy by recalling amusing anecdotes.

"I was in San Fabian, Pangasinan, where I have a small beach house, when I learned about Nida's death," Villa said. "Then I heard a neighbor's maid shout at me, 'Nida, Nida, patay na si Nova (Nova is dead)!'

"Nida and I were always mistaken for one another because many were saying we're like sisters. She was my ate. Even in our height, we were alike. We're both cute."

Villa also said it was Blanca who taught her how to be organized.

"I used to be burara, but now, I even have a filing cabinet," Villa said. "I learned many of life's lessons from her. I will always remember Nida. She will always be in my heart."

Dolphy explained why Blanca never became his girlfriend, even if they were together in "John en Marsha" for 16 years.

"She was my favorite leading lady," he said. "Our closeness was very remarkable. Even if we didn't see each other for a long time, our love and concern for each other were always there. She never became my girlfriend because I respect her not only as an actress, but also as a real person."

Dolphy amused the audience when he shared an anecdote with Blanca and the late comedian Panchito Alba, when they were filming in Rome.

"Our director, Chaning Carlos, asked me to wash my karsonsilio (underwear) at the Republic Fountain," Dolphy said. "But as the cameras were grinding, a policeman saw me, and he wanted to arrest me. Nida interceded for me. She offered to go with me to the precinct and said, 'If it's Panchito who will go with you, you might even be jailed.'"

'No airs'

A priest remembered Blanca as a simple woman who never attracted attention.

"She would walk to the church without fanfare. She always dressed very simply. She never acted like she was a star," he said, adding:

"She had no airs. She was one of us. She was so easy to like because she honestly liked people. She followed best what our Lord said, 'Learn from me because I am humble and meek of heart.' She was blessed with a deep understanding of how was it to be human.

"Her name, Dorothy, means 'the gift of God.' And that is what Nida Blanca was to all of us, her family, friends and fans."

Actress Mila Ocampo, one of Blanca's closest friends in the business, waxed nostalgic about her early days at LVN Pictures, when Blanca was the first star to welcome her with actor Carlos Salazar.

"I don't think I will run out of words when I talk about Dory," Ocampo said. "She had been a part of my life since the first day I stepped into LVN Pictures. She asked me if I wanted to be a star. I said yes. Then she told me, 'Be good.'"

Ocampo, the mother of actress Snooky Serna, also said it was Blanca who first came to her family's rescue when a fire hit their house.

Serna also wrote a short poem for Blanca, which Ocampo read as part of her eulogy.

At the Mass, a tearful Marissa Sanchez sang "The Promise," which made everyone inside the church cry. The singer-comedienne worked with Blanca in the ABS-CBN sitcom, "Pwedeng-Pwede," which starred Robin Padilla and Kris Aquino.

Gary Valenciano also rendered his popular inspirational ballad, "Take Me Out of the Dark."

Arrest of 2 suspects denied, confirmed

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

AS Nida Blanca was laid to rest yesterday, conflicting statements continued to be issued on the state of the murder investigation.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco confirmed that the Philippine National Police already had two suspects in custody.

"I talked with (PNP chief) Director General Leandro Mendoza and he said that they have the two suspects," Wycoco said. But he said that authorities were still trying to determine the mastermind of the brutal killing.

Mendoza, however, denied that the PNP, particularly its Task Force Marsha, had two suspects in custody.

"We only invited witnesses," he said. But he said "we have a good lead and the suspects are being trailed."

Mendoza appealed for "more time" for the solution of the case.

Wycoco said investigators had dropped the "robbery and insurance angles."

He said they were still pursuing the "personal grudge" angle as the most probable motive in Blanca's murder.

He refused to divulge more details, saying that the information was sensitive and that it would be the PNP that would close the case.

"Hopefully, the police will announce the solution of the case by the end of the week. We all want to have those behind this dastardly crime punished," he said.

The NBI acts as a support unit to the PNP in the investigation of Blanca's murder. But some NBI agents are disgruntled that Task Force Marsha is an all-police force.

Wycoco said Tuesday that the PNP was now "wrapping up" its investigation. He said the PNP might announce a breakthrough today or tomorrow.

GMA serious on kidnaps

(From page A1)

during his stint.

The anti-kidnapping measures taken by the Macapagal administration represented a turnaround from its previous posture of playing down the series of abductions in Metro Manila.

Through presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Malacañang had been insisting that the number of kidnappings was declining and that the media were merely sensationalizing a few abductions involving prominent families.

But various business groups, including the American Chamber of Commerce, have demanded tougher government action against the kidnappers.

Talk with FBI

In her talk with businessmen, Ms Macapagal said that during her visit to the United States next week she would discuss how the Federal Bureau of Investigation could "beef up their personnel here so they can help in joint operations with the Philippines on anti-kidnapping."

She said she had already sought the help of the Hong Kong police and would seek the assistance of Scotland Yard.

"Kidnapping in the Philippines is not a local or domestic industry. It is a transnational crime," she said, citing the arrest of foreigners allegedly engaged in kidnappings here.

Noting that many kidnap victims are wealthy Chinese-Filipinos, Ms Macapagal said she had authorized local "self-defense units" in Manila's Chinatown to carry firearms and make citizens' arrests.

She said the Department of Interior and Local Government was waiting for a list of people from the Chinese-Filipino community to be deputized to bear arms.

Ms Macapagal said money had been appropriated for the hiring of 1,300 officers in addition to 400 already recruited to beef up the police force in Metro Manila, where most of the kidnappings have occurred.

She said the PNP would only be hiring college gradutes to professionalize the force.

"We are encouraging policemen with no college degrees to retire . . . We want as a basic minimum they (new recruits) must have college degrees," she said.

The President said her administration would continue its policy of "no tolerance for kidnappings, no negotiations for ransom, and no backroom deals."

On Monday, gunmen wearing police and military uniforms seized the 14-year-old daughter of a prominent doctor as she was being driven to school.

The Citizens Action Against Crime says at least 202 people have been abducted in more than 90 kidnappings from January to September. An estimated P141.8 million ($2.75 million) in ransom has been paid, according to the anti-crime group.

Ms Macapagal said the government was "very close to resolving the problem of the Abu Sayyaf," a Moro bandit group holding an American couple and several Filipinos hostage in Basilan. She did not elaborate.

Mind your business

In her speech, Ms Macapagal told the businessmen to mind their business and leave the business of governance to the government.

"The government is doing all to improve business environment to create jobs and improve the people's lives. We will attend to the work of governance but please take care of business. I need your continued support because we have to work in tandem," she said.

Samie Lim, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Ms Macapagal "hit the nail right on the head" with her anti-kidnapping measures.

But PCCI president Miguel Varela said businessmen were adopting a wait-a-see attitude on whether the government was firm in its resolve to crack down on kidnapping.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the PNP would arm and train selected civilians as agents in areas where there is a rash of kidnappings.

According to him, the government will also put up reward money for informers in kidnapping cases. *With report from AP*

TO FACE up to the tough questions about top cops receiving jueteng money as alleged by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in a privilege speech on Tuesday, PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and DILG Secretary Joey Lina hold a press conference in Camp Crame on Wednesday.

Gloria schedule in US jampacked

(From page A1)

President Macapagal's schedule in this US capital is jampacked with meetings with top officials, lawmakers, American investors, Filipino-Americans and American lobbyists, and interviews with the mainstream media, among them CNN, the "Today" show, the Newshour with Jim Lehrer and the Washington Post editorial board.

In the White House meeting between President Macapagal and US President George W. Bush, the talking points will center on global anti-terrorism strategy, military aid to fight the Abu Sayyaf group in Mindanao, Asian regional security and the enhancement of bilateral relations.

The meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 11:25 a.m. (12:25 a.m., Wednesday, Manila time), Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario told the INQUIRER.

Every possible assistance

Del Rosario also said in an interview that Bush told him "he looks forward to the visit of our President and the talks that he will have with her." He added that Bush "spoke highly of our President and the leadership she has demonstrated" in supporting the international anti-terrorism coalition.

The US president "also indicated that he was prepared to provide every possible assistance in terms of helping the Philippines in dealing with its own terrorism problem in Mindanao."

President Bush made the statements during Del Rosario's presentation of his credentials as the country's new envoy to the United States on Nov. 8.

Ambassador Del Rosario said Mr. Bush appreciates the full support of the Macapagal administration. The envoy told the INQUIRER that the Philippines could also send troops, "with the concurrence of Congress."

Cheney

The INQUIRER also learned from other sources the 30-minute Tuesday meeting between the two presidents, and that the meeting will be preceded by a session with Vice President Cheney the previous day.

President Macapagal's 30-minute meeting with the influential Vice President will take place at 2:45 p.m. at the Roosevelt Room at the White House on Monday (Nov. 19).

Lunch will follow at the White House after the meeting between the two presidents. But it will be hosted by National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice instead of President Bush, whose plate is full due to the fast-breaking developments in Afghanistan.

Officials

Before motoring to the White House on Nov. 20, President Macapagal is to meet Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon at 9:45 a.m. The two are likely to address the hostage problem in Mindanao. Two Americans are among the international Abu Sayyaf hostages.

After the lunch and a 1:30 p.m. press conference at the media stakeout site in the White House, she will meet Secretary of State Colin L. Powell for 30 minutes, starting at 2:30 p.m. at the state department on the issue of anti-terrorism coalition.

During her visit, President Macapagal is expected to raise the issue of the pending $19 million in Foreign Military Service (FMS) for operation and maintenance of surplus warplanes and special weapons, now en route to the Philippines under the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) arrangement.

This week and in January, the Philippines will be receiving one refurbished C-130, five surplus Huey helicopters, 18 troop carriers, 350 grenade launchers, 50 sniper rifles, generation 2 night goggles and thermal imaging equipment.

The Philippines is expected to request an additional refurbished C-130, three more refurbished Hueys, cyclone class patrol craft for the navy and tactical radios, among other things.

Agreements

The two presidents will be signing a joint statement further enhancing the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ms Macapagal and Cabinet officials accompanying her are also scheduled to sign a number of memoranda of agreement, among them concerning the privatization of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the export of Philippine mangoes starting next year.

Also on schedule for signing are: memorandum of agreement between Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Kellog Brown and Andy Root of KBR; First Asia Transit Ltd. and Futrex Inc.; and Corporate Info Solutions and Andsuns Microsytems Inc.

Schedule

Ms Macapagal's three-day official visit is the latest in a revolving-door parade of leaders who have been asked to support the anti-terrorist international coalition against Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden is the suspected terrorist responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York's financial center and Pentagon, the US Department of Defense.

Among the other officials she is to meet in this US capital are former Vice President Dan Quayle (Nov. 19), Sen. Richard Lugar (R, Indiana) and lawmakers who support a Filipino World War II veterans' benefits bill, and the Veterans Administration deputy secretary.

Mass

Ms Macapagal will arrive from New York at the Andrews Air Force Base in nearby Maryland state at 10 a.m. on Sunday (Nov. 18). She will proceed to the Blair House, official lodging of visiting world leaders, located just across the White House.

The day's highlight is a 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mass at this city's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Filipino American community will attend the Mass.

On Monday (Nov. 19), she will be interviewed at 6:30 a.m. on NBC-4 "Today," the No. 1 morning show in the nation. At 7:30 a.m., she will have a one-hour meeting with officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Financing Corp. (IFC).

At 9 a.m., she will proceed to the Arlington cemetery just across the Potomac River, to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

From 10 a.m. until 11:45 a.m., she will receive a series of calls by American officials: Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, US Trade Representative Robert Zoelick, Usaid Director Andrew Natsios, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

Lunch will be with US congressional leaders and the Philippine lawmakers. At 4:45 p.m., she will receive a presidential award from Georgetown University, where she studied and met student Bill Clinton, who became US president.

Business

On Nov. 20, Ms Macapagal's schedule will begin with an 8:45 a.m. meeting with Senator Lugar (Republican from Indiana), the ranking minority member of the Senate committee on foreign relations and a staunch supporter of the Philippines.

At 3:30 p.m., the President will have a one-hour session with the Washington Post editorial board.

She will cap the day with a dinner with the US-Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Council at this city's famous Willard Hotel. Dinner at 7 p.m. will be followed by her speech an hour later. She will then assess her visit at a press conference.

At midnight, she will fly to Mexico City for a short, half-day visit on Wednesday. She will then proceed to Los Angeles, California, to meet the Filipino American community. She will leave for Manila close to midnight on Wednesday. She is expected to arrive in the Philippines early Friday morning, Manila time.

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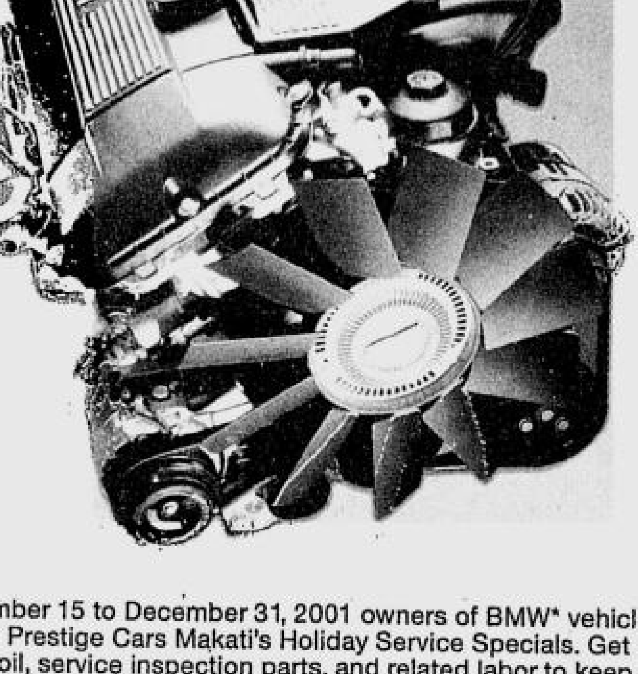

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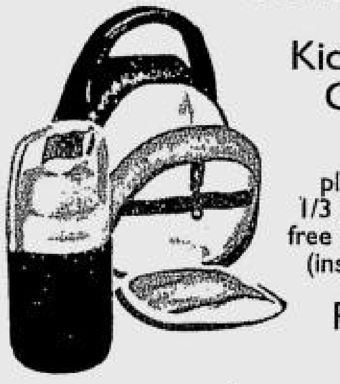

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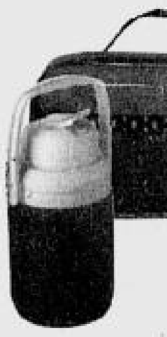

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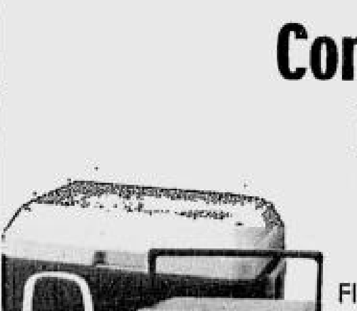

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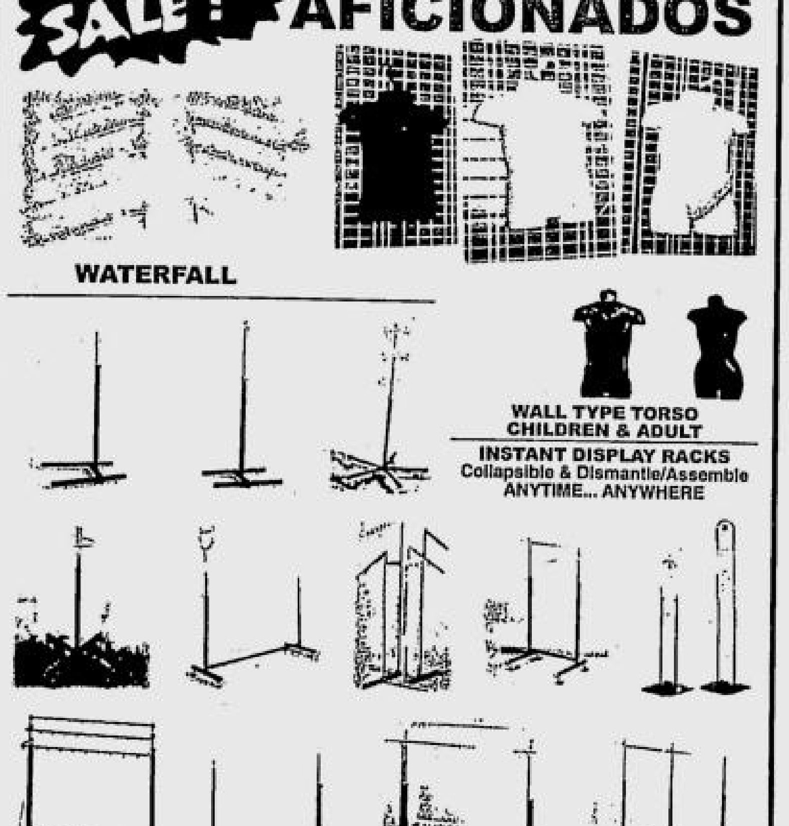

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Victorious anti-Taliban forces turn attention to forming gov't

(From page A1)

The well-connected Afghan Islamic Press said Taliban forces had abandoned the southern province of Uruzgan, birthplace of their supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, and allowed local chiefs to take over Kunar and Nargahar provinces.

Uruzgan is at the border of the remaining Taliban stronghold, Kandahar.

Residents told AFP that the Taliban abandoned Nargahar after a night of fierce US bombing in the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

With opposition forces celebrating their victory, Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar took to the airwaves Tuesday to urge his demoralized forces to battle on, the Afghan Islamic Press news agency reported.

A senior Taliban source told AFP the movement was planning to switch to guerrilla tactics after being bested on the battlefield.

The rapid collapse of the Taliban is seen as a victory for the US campaign to dismantle the Islamic militia and its allies, Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network of Islamic extremists.

But the sheer speed with which the Afghan map has changed has triggered fears that the anti-Taliban factions could fall back into the civil war that blighted the country until the Taliban seized power five years ago.

HAIL to the victors. Kabul residents go out into the streets to welcome Northern Alliance fighters as they recapture the Afghan capital from the fleeing Taliban forces.

GETTY IMAGES

It won't happen

In Kabul, a senior leader of the Northern Alliance—a loose coalition of mujahedin forces drawn mainly from the Uzbek, Tajik and Hazara minorities—vowed this would not happen.

"We are backing an interim government in Kabul, after the collapse of the Taliban," Younis Qanooni told AFP, adding that Burhanuddin Rabbani—who held sway in Kabul until he was driven out by the Taliban in 1996—should remain known as president in the interim administration.

"We want this interim government to be a broad-based government that all ethnic parties in Afghanistan are involved in. And after two years, the general elections will be held in our country."

The Northern Alliance is the armed wing of the internationally recognized Afghan government-in-exile.

President Rabbani's representative in Tajikistan, Said Ibragim Khikmat, said that the ousted leader would return Wednesday to Kabul and declare himself head of the broad swathe of territory now in Northern Alliance hands.

But he insisted that Rabbani would not seek to unilaterally create a government.

"He will lead the provinces freed from the Taliban and also head the task of freeing provinces now under the control of the Islamic militia," he said.

"The formation of the government will take place after Afghanistan has been liberated from the Taliban."

New impetus

The fall of Kabul gave new impetus to attempts by the United Nations and the United States to set up a government based around a council representing the Northern Alliance and leaders of other factions.

At an emergency session of the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Lakhdar Brahimi, Secretary General Kofi Annan's special representative to Afghanistan, unveiled a plan aimed at securing stability and peace.

The United Nations would convene a conference with the Northern Alliance and representatives of the factions backed by Iran and Pakistan "as early as humanly possible," Brahimi told the Security Council.

US President George W. Bush stressed the Northern Alliance would not get preferential treatment in the establishment of a future Afghan government.

"All people will be treated the same," he said. "That's what we're working with our friends, the Russians and others. That's the concept we're working on with the United Nations," he said in a joint news conference in Washington with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Bush also expressed concern about discipline among Northern Alliance troops and cautioned the opposition to respect human rights amid reports of killings and rights abuses in areas it now controls.

Ex-Afghan king

In Rome, US special envoy James Dobbins met with ex-Afghan King Mohammed Zahir Shah before heading to Islamabad to see other Afghan opposition leaders.

After the meeting, Dobbins said he told the former monarch that Washington and others wanted "to bring together the most broadest and inclusive coalition and we agreed on the importance of this."

The king has emerged as the likely figurehead of an interim regime as he could bind in leaders of the Pashtun tribes who make up Afghanistan's largest ethnic group and convene a "Loya Jirga"—a council of tribal chiefs—to endorse a new Afghan constitution.

The king was to address his former subjects later Wednesday in a radio and television broadcast, assuring them of his imminent return home—not to rule but to serve his people. He was expected to urge them not to take revenge into their own hands after the fall of the Taliban.

"It will be a message to the Afghan nation, on the eve of Ramadan," the ex-king's spokesperson Youssouf Nouristani said.

The Northern Alliance's decision to grab Kabul despite being urged not to by the United States and others annoyed the king's camp.

Royal aide Abdul Sattar Sirat told AFP on Tuesday that the Northern Alliance had broken an agreement and the king's son Mirwais Zahir urged it not to try and rule alone.

British troops

In London, Britain's defense ministry announced that "several thousand" paratroopers and Marine commandos had been put on 48-hour standby to head for Afghanistan to scout the terrain for a UN peacekeeping force.

They could be deployed in Kabul and the strategic northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif to pave the way for a wider force and could also help with essential humanitarian relief work, a spokesperson said.

"The idea is literally to prepare the ground for a peacekeeping force, and to make sure that such a force can operate successfully in Afghanistan," Hoon told BBC radio from Afghanistan's neighbor, Uzbekistan.

Troops from Islamic countries are expected to make up the bulk of the UN peacekeeping force. Indonesia said Wednesday it was ready to take part in the UN force.

The latest British troop commitment was separate from the 4,200 personnel, including special forces and Royal Marines, who have already been committed to assist the US-led campaign in Afghanistan.

The fresh troops would not take part in attacks on the Taliban or al-Qaida, London said.

US forces have helped the Northern Alliance and other opposition factions to take on the Taliban, but their main aim remains to hunt down Bin Laden, whom Washington blames for the Sept. 11 attacks on US cities that left some 5,000 dead.

Special forces

US and British special forces are on the ground inside Afghanistan, and their task is likely to become easier now that that Taliban's grip on the country has been weakened.

Northern Alliance Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah told Abu Dhabi television that if opposition forces caught Bin Laden, he could face trial in Afghanistan for war crimes.

International aid groups said Wednesday there was still a refugee crisis in Afghanistan that has suffered from three years of drought as well as two decades of civil war.

UN Children's Fund spokesperson Gordon Weiss said: "We still have a crisis upon us. Nothing that has happened in the last few days has changed that."

Unicef says 100,000 children under the age of 5 may die in the coming Afghan winter. *AFP*

'Pauper' leaves $1-M estate to honor NY dead

(From page A1)

newspaper at the store to pinch pennies. His grocer was so worried Temeczko couldn't afford to fix his furnace, that he offered him money. The tiny man smiled and declined.

After Temeczko collapsed of an apparent heart attack in his yard last month, his neighbors got a surprise: The 86-year-old man who lived like a pauper had died a millionaire.

Then came the second surprise.

Temeczko, a Polish emigré who told neighbors he had endured terrible times as a prisoner of war during World War II, had changed his will after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He decided that everything he had would go to honor those who died in New York.

Temeczko had no family, his lawyer says, and his will directs his estate of about $1 million—including his two-story stucco house, savings and possessions—be given to New York to be used at the discretion of the mayor and city council.

Temeczko had called his lawyer, William Wangensteen, days after two planes plowed into the World Trade Center, killing thousands.

"I think you're going to be very happy about what I'm going to do," Wangesteen said Temeczko told him.

"He said he was moved by the World Trade disaster . . . and suddenly it occurred to him he could make a difference," Wangesteen said.

He didn't want anybody to suffer

Next-door neighbor Abubakr Gireis said Temeczko had suffered a lot.

WHEN Joe Temeczko died at 86 last month, he surprised his friends and neighbors with the revelation that he was in fact a millionaire as he lived a pauper's life. AP

"He told me some horrible stories. He wouldn't want anybody to suffer. I think that's why he gave his money to New York," Gireis said.

"He was very sad about Sept. 11," Gireis adds. "He thought the world was changing. He didn't seem the same."

Neighbor Rod Carlson says Temeczko talked about the horror of that day.

"It makes me really angry when bad people hurt good people . . . There are good people buried there. That's not OK," Carlson quoted Temeczko as saying.

Temeczko's neighbors say the only references he ever made to New York were of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

He told people he had worked on a cleanup project at the statue, but the details were elusive, like much of Temeczko's life.

On his wall, he kept a laminated poster of the landmark with its "Give me your tired, your poor . . ." inscription.

Nearby was a certificate for his contribution to the centennial commission for Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants were processed.

Mysterious past

Temeczko had never tired of telling people how warmly he was embraced when he arrived in America around 1950.

But his past is a mystery.

Temeczko told neighbors he was a prisoner during World War II and later in the Soviet Union. He said he had lost family. He said he had ruined his teeth while gnawing on bones as a prisoner. But he never mentioned names and places.

"It was as if life started at a certain date and what happened prior to that, you could not get it out of him," says Sarah Hultgren, who befriended Temeczko while working at the neighborhood grocery where he was a regular.

Hultgren thinks his decision to leave his savings to New York was a matter of timing and his nature—frugal and generous.

He saw a need and wanted to help.

Persistent but grateful

He could be demanding, too, frequently calling on neighbors for favors. The 5-foot-1 Temeczko would ask them to haul a refrigerator down the stairs, take their trucks to retrieve large items like air conditioners and TV sets that he found on his daily scavenging route, or fill out medical forms (he didn't write English well).

"I learned a lot about persistence from him," says Carlson, who checked on Temeczko daily.

"If he wanted something, he'd get it. If he needed you to do something, you couldn't say no. He'd ride you until you did it."

To show his gratitude, he'd give gifts. Often they were items he salvaged and repaired or found at garage and estate sales. Gifts like a vintage Pablo Casals album for a music lover and toys for Carlson's 2-year-old daughter.

Then there was food: discounted eggs, chips and bread (sometimes moldy) that he'd put in plastic bags and leave on neighbors' doorknobs.

Carpenter, handyman, roofer

How Temeczko amassed his money isn't known, but he was self-employed as a carpenter, handyman and roofer for decades and he claimed to have hundreds of customers.

That's how Carlson met him nine years ago. He returned home one day, startled to see a silver-haired man with thick black-framed glasses working on his roof.

"Who are you?" Carlson asked, as he climbed the ladder. "What are you doing on my roof?"

A nonplussed Temeczko said he was repairing shingles that had fallen off during a storm. He stepped down and, in his thick accent, announced: "That will be $150."

Carlson speculates he wasn't the only customer recruited that way.

Temeczko was always trying to peddle something: a chandelier to his lawyer, detergent to the grocer, tools to his neighbors.

Carlson recalls Temeczko sometimes tried to sell him things Carlson himself had tossed out.

"He would come up to you and say, 'How about $12 for this box?' I'd say, 'Joe, those things are mine.' He'd take them out and say, 'How about $9?'"

Like a little squirrel

In his latter years, Temeczko was hard of hearing but remained agile and fast enough to beat someone up the stairs who was a third his age.

"I thought of him like a little squirrel," says Wangensteen, who hired Temeczko this fall to put up storm windows.

"I used to panic when I saw him running around the roof. He would scramble around without fear, doing things I wouldn't want him to do."

At work, he was all business, but at home, he had a few indulgences, including movies ("The Sound of Music" was a favorite) and classical music. He also made a yearly trip to a Polish friend in Mexico, whose identity is unknown, and recently made the long journey by bus.

But shortly before he died, he told Carlson he wasn't going this winter. And he tried to give Carlson a snowblower—as if he knew he wouldn't be around much longer.

But he didn't say he was ill.

Another life

Carlson says he had advised Temeczko earlier about possible charities for his will and the elderly man had given him instructions for his death. He had chosen a blue suit to wear, decided on cremation and directed him to a box of photos to view.

When Carlson saw them, he was amazed.

The man who wore the same old green-and-brown plaid pants and ratty sneakers was photographed decades ago stylishly coifed and dapper in bow ties, ascots, tailored blazers and suits. The photos were taken all over Europe.

The man who said he had no social life was photographed frolicking with several striking women in dramatic, often romantic poses.

It was another surprise from Joe Temeczko.

First, his unexpected wealth. Then, his dying gift. And now this.

"It's obvious," Carlson says, "there was so much more to him than any of us ever knew." AP

Bin Laden bomb song a smash hit

(From page A1)

Harry Belafonte's calypso-pop classic "The Banana Boat Song."

Written by a Las Vegas radio team, the song has been getting airtime on more than 100 US radio stations and mass circulation on the Internet.

It was written by KOMP-FM's morning show crew about a week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Two months later, cartoon versions of a gun-toting Bin Laden are running and ducking for cover as an animated version of a singing Colin Powell.

One member of the team said the video has been downloaded more than 10 million times.

"I never thought it would be this big," longtime KOMP-FM morning show disc jockey Craig Williams told The Associated Press Monday. "It's been e-mailed all over the world. We're getting played in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, France and Germany." *AP*

Ramadan: No food, no drink, no sex by day

(From page A1)

Ramadan marks God's revelation of the Quran, Islam's holy book, to the prophet Mohammed nearly 1,400 years ago.

For 30 days, Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking and sex during daylight hours in an act of sacrifice and purification. It is a period for reflection, self-restraint, prayer, reading the Quran, repenting for one's sins and remembering the poor and hungry.

It is also a much-awaited religious event.

Since last week, young Filipino Muslims have been sending text messages, "Happy Ramadan" or "Eidl Mubarak."

Hundreds of garbed Muslim females congregated at the Bandar Inged Mosque in Greenhills on Tuesday to prepare spiritually for the 30-day fast.

12-hour fast

During Ramadan, while other homes are still fast asleep, Muslim homes are already up by 2 a.m., preparing for breakfast, which ends just before the Subuh (5 a.m.) prayer.

Muslims in the Philippines observe about 12 hours of fast every day, starting from 4 a.m. until 6 p.m. Only travelers, the sick, women who are pregnant, nursing or menstruating, young children and the mentally incapacitated are exempt from the fast.

Visiting each other's homes and sharing gifts and giving charity to the poor are encouraged.

After the mandatory night prayer, Aisha, Muslims stay longer in mosques (or at home) for 40 minutes of Taraweeh prayer led by an imaam, or "learned" man among the congregation.

Filipino Muslims continue their usual day-to-day activities during Ramadan but in countries where temperatures are high or days are very long, normal workday life often slows down.

The 'iftar'

Ramadan also has its festive side.

After the call of prayer from the mosques, or adhan, at 6 p.m., families gather to eat and pray to break the fast with special dishes at the post-sunset meal (iftar).

The embassy of Saudi Arabia traditionally distributes kurma (dates) to Moro communities in the South for the iftar.

Mosques also usually have iftar for those praying and breaking their fast.

During a recent pre-fast seminar at the Maharlika Village in Taguig, an ustadz described as "nakakalungkot (disheartening)" the present state of Islamic practice today.

"Even in our homes and communities (in the Philippines), Islam (as a faith) has not touched the Muslims," he said.

Some Muslims, he said, evaded fasting or "even pretended to fast."

Ramadan elsewhere

In other parts of the Muslim world, it appears that the nightly Ramadan feasts will be as sumptuous as ever, TV dramas as lively and shopping as busy.

In the United Arab Emirates, American-based fast-food chains are introducing dates and special soups as part of an "all you can eat" Ramadan menu.

In Kuwait, shoppers culled through Ramadan specialties such as California prunes, Turkish apricots and Iranian figs. In the last 10 days of Ramadan, children dressed in traditional robes go "trick or treating" Kuwaiti style, getting rewards of nuts and candy for singing a special Ramadan song.

In Lebanon, Ramadan tents are being set up, although the all-night dancing and singing that once accompanied Ramadan meals have been toned down after complaints that the revels were un-Islamic.

In Malaysia, hotels and country clubs have Ramadan buffets, where Muslims line up with their plates as dusk nears, awaiting the signal to break their fast.

In Egypt, restaurants along the Nile River are advertising special Ramadan menus and vendors are peddling traditional Ramadan lanterns. The elaborate, six-sided lanterns are traced back to the lights carried by peasants a thousand years ago to guide the caliph as he went outside to look for the crescent moon signaling the start of the holy month.

Egypt's state-run television has prepared a smorgasbord of Ramadan offerings, including about 10 dramas with the usual scenarios: love triumphs, the corrupt fall and traitors are caught.

Jordan appears to be the only Arab country likely to have a low-key Ramadan to express solidarity with Afghans, as Jordanians did last year to show sympathy for the Palestinian uprising.

Eid'l Fitr, a holiday

Muslims regard the last 10 days of Ramadan as especially holy. The Lailatul Qadr, or Night of Power, marks the point when the Quran was given and some Muslims pray all night.

One of the grandest Muslim celebrations is the end of Ramadan, Eid'l Fitr.

And this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared it a national holiday. This declaration was the result of lobbying by Muslim advocacy groups.

"This is the first time that a (Philippine) President recognized the Muslim holiday of Eid'l Fitr," said Saada Mindalano of the General Santos City-based Muslim Business Forum (MBF).

The MBF is also facilitating the expansion of the distribution of halal (allowable Muslim food including beef slaughtered with Islamic prayers) products in the Philippines.

During Philippine celebrations of Eid'l Fitr, Muslims dressed in their native or grand Islamic attire converge for the 6-7 a.m. prayers in mosques. Charity, amounting to 2.5 percent of one's annual salary, are offered to the poor.

After this they share "feasts" with family or friends.

Ramadan is one of Islam's "five pillars" or obligatory observances.

The others are: profession of faith in the one God and Mohammed as his messenger (in Arabic, the shahada), five daily prayers recited in Arabic while facing Mecca (salat); a charitable payment, usually annual (zakat); and at least one pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj) if possible. *With a report from AP*

(Editor's Note: Samira Ali Gutoc was a correspondent for the INQUIRER's Mindanao Bureau. She is now in Manila to concentrate on her law studies. She hopes to publish a Muslim newspaper five years from now.)

Top cops deny 'jueteng' raps; PNP sets probe

(From p[age A1)

allow an impartial investigation to proceed."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Lacson should present concrete evidence and stop using his immunity as a senator to hit the PNP that he once headed.

Tiglao said that based on PNP reports, the government's campaign against illegal gambling was proceeding without letup.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who exercises jurisdiction over the PNP, said Lacson should present evidence "so we can impose the necessary sanctions on the officers he identified."

Lacson said in a privilege speech Tuesday that Wycoco and ranking PNP officials were operating receiving at least P2 million a month from jueteng operations in Luzon. He also named the alleged operators and financiers.

Among those he named was his archenemy, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, now Central Luzon police director.

But Berroya said yesterday that Lacson's exposé was part of a larger plot of the opposition to destroy the President.

In Vigan City, Luis "Chavit" Singson, the President's adviser in the government's campaign against illegal gambling, denied that he was involved in jueteng operations.

"*Sinungaling si* Lacson *noon at ngayon* (Then as now, Lacson is a liar)," the former Ilocos Sur governor told the INQUIRER by telephone.

'Masiao'

Lacson said yesterday that he would next disclose the extent of "masiao" operations in Visayas and Mindanao, as well as the government officials there who had been receiving protection money.

"My staff is now collating all the data we have gathered on masiao operations in the South," he said.

Lacson was reacting to Sen. John Osmeña's expression of "disappointment" Tuesday night "that the list was limited to jueteng operations in Luzon."

In his speech, Lacson said jueteng operations in Luzon involved P16.566 billion annually.

He said Wycoco and the PNP regional commanders in Luzon, with the exception of National Capital Region Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, were on the take from jueteng lords.

Superintendents Melito Mabilin, Cris Garcia and Totoy Montes, whom Lacson named as Wycoco's "collectors," were inadvertently identified by the INQUIRER yesterday as Galvante's "fronts."

By Lacson's account, Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, with jueteng operations in seven areas, tops the list of earners with a gross annual collection of P4.464 billion.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., whose nephew was tagged but not named by Lacson as the jueteng operator in Zambales, said he would not come to the defense of a relative found involved in an illegal activity.

Lacson denied that politics was behind his disclosures.

"This is not politically motivated for the simple reason that the police force, as protectors of the people against crimes, will never be involved in politics," he said.

He added that he exposed the alleged involvement of PNP officials in jueteng because "we can never correct this malpractice if the police officers themselves are receiving jueteng money."

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste said she would support any formal inquiry into the continued operation of the illegal numbers game and the supposed involvement of PNP officials.

Day in court

Mendoza said that "the appropriate criminal and administrative sanctions will apply if Senator Lacson's evidence warrants," and that he would request the National Police Commission to conduct an investigation.

Lina said he would indeed convene the Napolcom, which he heads, to determine if Lacson had the goods on the officers he named.

These officers will be given "their day in court" and will be allowed to explain their side, Lina said.

He noted that from January to October, the PNP recorded 28,000 jueteng-related arrests and 7,500 cases filed before the courts.

But he pointed out that Congress had failed over the years to pass stronger legislation against illegal gambling.

Under present laws, jueteng collectors face a fine of only P400 to P2,000 or two-year imprisonment. Jueteng lords or maintainers face a fine of P6,000 or imprisonment of up to six years, which an offender can avoid by seeking probation.

"One of the reasons illegal gambling is difficult to curb is the very light penalty," Lina said. "The profit is so big, so lucrative, that jueteng lords just laugh at the penalty on collectors and *cabos* (supervisors)."

While Mendoza did not take up the cudgels for the PNP officials whom Lacson named, he deflected suggestions that they be told to go on leave for the duration of the planned investigation.

He said the relief of any official should depend on the results of the investigation because the mechanism for internal discipline was working well in the PNP.

He also said the PNP was maintaining a strict "no take" policy on illegal gambling.

In a prepared statement, Mendoza said the PNP had become sensitive to accusations of wrongdoing, whether factual and imagined.

"We simply cannot afford to lose the trust and confidence of the people, and certainly not by way of congressional privilege," he said.

Script

Wycoco said Lacson was linking him to *jueteng* because the NBI was hot on the trail of the senator's alleged criminal activities.

"The timing and the venue were perfect, except for the script. For maximum effect, he took on the NBI to take away the luster of our performance," Wycoco said during the bureau's celebration yesterday of its 65th anniversary.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who was present, told Wycoco: "*Hindi ka nag-iisa* (You are not alone)."

Wycoco said one of Lacson's "trusted men" had told him that the plot was "ready as early as last month."

"But this script was poorly done. Maybe that's his way of diverting the issue," Wycoco said.

He also said FBI officials had confirmed the existence of "amounts" in Lacson's supposed US bank accounts.

"We're still waiting for the official FBI report, which will be coursed through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty," Wycoco said, adding that the report would be "admissible in court."

"They said it would just be delayed because of the terrorist attacks (in the US). It was not sidelined," he added.

Wycoco said the government was also investigating the "bashing" that the government's intelligence agencies had warned about.

He noted that the Departments of Justice and of Transportation and Communication, the Ombudsman, and, recently, Armed Forces chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, had been subjects of negative publicity.

"There seems to be a systematic institutional bashing," he said. "We will try to find out why they're doing this. And we'll take some legal preemptive steps about this."

Wycoco said the NBI's continued investigation of Lacson might have earned him the ire of the senator.

"I cannot expect any kindness or good words from Sen. Panfilo Lacson," he said. "Everybody knows that I am very much in the thick of the investigation of the Bubby Dacer-Manuel Corbito double-murder case, where the principal suspects charged in court were all members of the defunct (Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force) where Senator Lacson was the boss.

"We have re-filed and revived the infamous Kuratong Baleleng multiple-murder case, and Lacson is also the principal indictee."

Regional directors

In his privilege speech, Lacson named Chief Superintendents Virtus Gil (Cordillera Autonomous Region), Arturo Lomibao (Ilocos), Dominador Resos Jr. (Cagayan Valley), Berroya (Central Luzon), Dominador Reyes (Southern Tagalog) and Enrique Galang (Bicol) as among those on the take.

Resos described Lacson's exposé as a "politically motivated action aimed at maligning the integrity of police officials under the Macapagal administration."

He said the figures were data obtained when Lacson was still PNP chief.

"The data are old, based on the research that I personally conducted," Resos said. "It appears that these are the same data recorded in 1999."

Gil was recently replaced as CAR regional director by Chief Supt. George Alino, erstwhile director of the Eastern Police District. Gil was named chief of the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management, considered a "freezer" compared with his previous post.

In a handwritten statement faxed to Camp Crame reporters, Lomibao said that there was nothing new in Lacson's exposé, and that the senator was doing everything to ruin his career.

Lomibao said that after the 1998 presidential election that made Lacson the second most powerful man in the country after then President Joseph Estrada, Lacson caused his removal as regional director for Central Luzon and blocked his promotion to star rank.

"Now that I'm back in the line, he is again throwing darts at me," Lomibao said from his office at Camp Florendo in San Fernando City.

Berroya said that after the privilege speech, Lacson would next link Pineda to the President.

Pineda was said to have bankrolled Ms Macapagal's senatorial and vice presidential campaigns. She has repeatedly denied this, especially at the start of the "Juetengate" scandal that led to Estrada's ouster.

"He's out to destroy the President," Berroya said of Lacson.

On Lacson's claim that he received P3 million a month from jueteng lords, Berroya said this was "ridiculous, baseless and certainly not true."

Berroya said that as PNP chief, Lacson was one of Estrada's men who established a centralized scheme in collecting protection money from jueteng lords nationwide.

He said the Central Luzon police had made "sincere efforts" in cracking down on jueteng, and had arrested more than 3,000 collectors since July when he assumed his post.

'Come and see'

Singson said there were no jueteng operations in his province. "I am inviting everybody to come to Ilocos Sur to see," he said.

The ex-governor also questioned the timing of Lacson's exposé: "When he was the PNP chief, he declared that there was a 'no-take' policy, but his men were profiting from jueteng. Why did he focus on jueteng only when there are blatant masiao operations in the Visayas and Mindanao?"

Singson also denied the involvement in jueteng of his son, Board Member Ronald Singson, and his brother, Jose "Bonito" Singson.

He accused Lacson of trying to discredit him, given his being a key witness in the ongoing plunder case against Estrada.

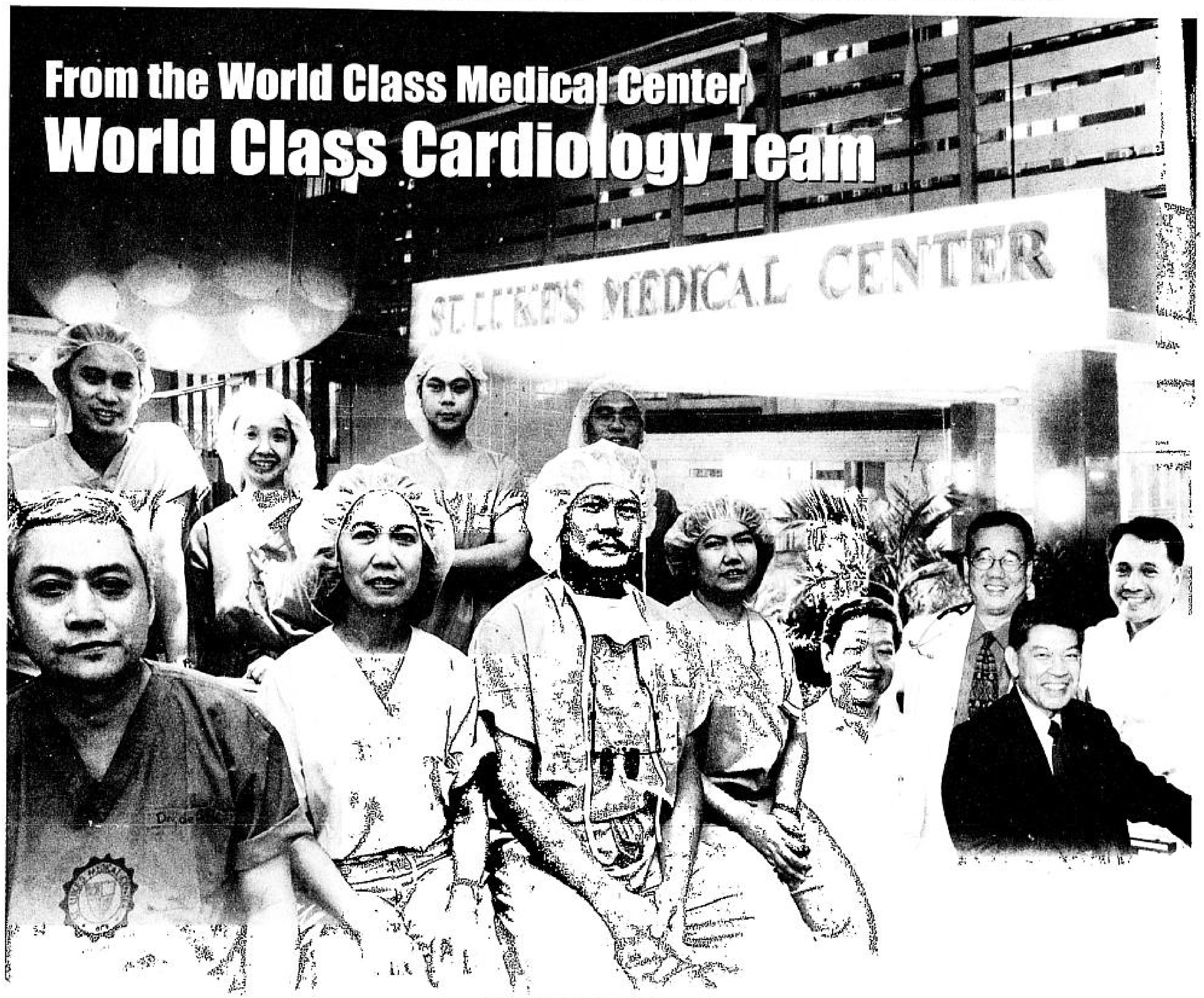
While admitting that jueteng operations had not ceased in Pangasinan, Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, police director of the province, said Lacson's accusation that he was receiving protection money was "malicious and irrelevant."

Mendoza said he had reason to believe that he was implicated by Lacson "in response" to his role in the investigation of the senator's alleged money-laundering activities.

Mendoza was the project officer of the task force that provided technical assistance to the committee that investigated Lacson.

"In fact, everyone Lacson implicated in the Luzon area are his former enemies, either professionally or personally," Mendoza said.

The other officials who denied Lacson's accusations were Supt. Romeo Espiritu, Ilocos Norte police director, and Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani. ***Reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Carlito Pablo, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Yolanda Fuertes, Gia Damaso Dumo, Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***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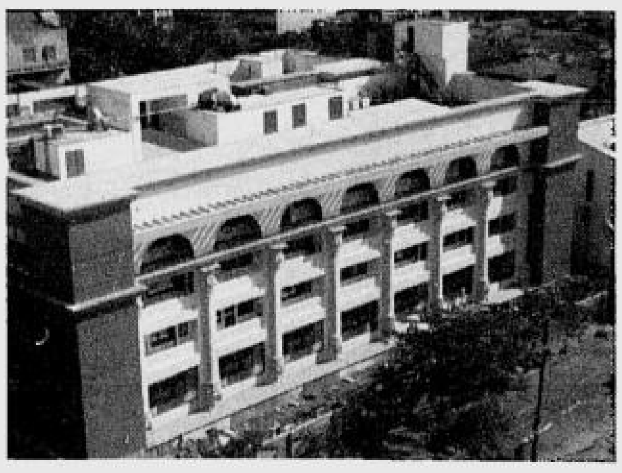
Thomas Aquinas Research Complex:

A venue of possible answers to global concerns



A FOUR-STORY twin edifice at the corner of Dapitan and P. Noval Streets, the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex stands as the University of Santo Tomas' (UST) commitment to multi-disciplinary research activities that are responsive to the needs and challenges of the modern time.

Realizing that the solutions to the many problems faced by local and international communities lie heavily on research, the University spearheaded on June 28, 1999 the construction of the Research Complex. Set to be inaugurated on November 15, 2001, the latest building at the Thomasian ground will house all the University's research facilities in the fields of science and technology, social sciences, humanities and education.

As a semi-centralized system, the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex is considered to be ideal for the promotion of an active exchange of ideas among resident and visiting researchers.

Twenty new research laboratories will be made available within the Complex for researchers on science and technology while sufficient working areas for researchers of other disciplines will also be provided.

It is expected to be a venue for basic and applied researches on natural products, biomolecular science, bio-sensors, and inventory control; action researches on the elderly, rural women, drug dependence, and non-formal education; graduate researches, services to the community, government and industries, as well as conference and fora.

As the University looks forward to its quadricentennial anniversary in 2011, the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex is seen as a potent factor in the development of research activities within and outside the UST campus.

Research Units of the University

WITH research serving as an essential justification for the existence of a university, significant efforts have been exerted by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) towards the establishment of research units for the promotion of research activities on specific disciplines. These units include:

Office for Research and Development (ORD)

UST's governing unit for research, the ORD handles over-all research administration in the University.

Research Center for the Natural Sciences (RCNS)

This Center initiates and coordinates multidisciplinary research programs on natural sciences for UST and non-UST researchers.

Social Research Center (SRC)

Its current thrust is shaped by concerns on a) poverty, women and development studies, b) sustainable development, c) economics and productivity development studies, and d) socio-cultural: religious, youth, elderly and family studies.

Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD)

The CERD facilitates development programs, seminar-workshops, colloquia and fora that enhance professional growth of educators.

Health Science Research Management Group (HSRMG)

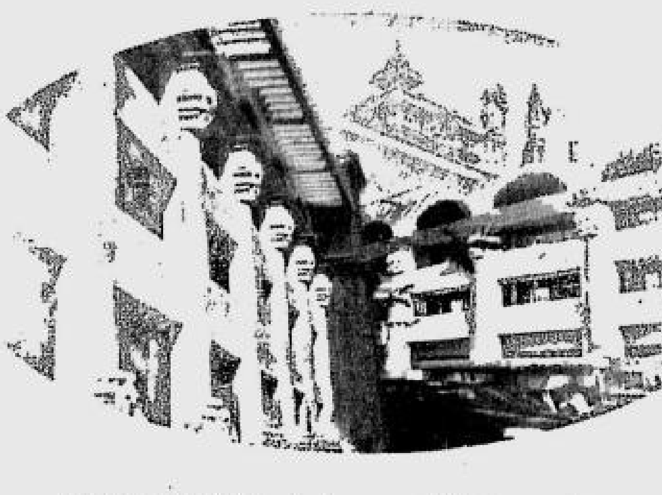
Overseeing research programs in the medical and other health sciences, HSRMG's current pool of staff is mainly composed of medical doctors and MS graduates affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

Centre for Intercultural Studies (CIS)

The University's research center for the humanities, culture and the arts, CIS functions as the custodian of a collection of rare books in the Asian Studies and numerous artifacts on Chinese culture.

Onwards 2011

Upholding a Vision...



Fulfilling a Mission...

Thomas Aquinas Research Complex

November 15, 2001

9:30 a.m., Research Complex Lobby

MESSAGES

I wish to convey my warmest salutations to the **University of Santo Tomas** on their blessing of the *Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.*

I am glad to note the continued efforts of the University of Santo Tomas in becoming one of the major contributors towards the advancement of education and youth development in the country. The Thomas Aquinas Research Complex signifies your strong commitment to rendering quality education so that our youth can find meaningful participation in today's global community.

Our Administration recognizes the tremendous role education plays in the attainment of our goal for sustainable development in this era of modernization. I am confident that you will be able to continue your noble tradition of guiding our youth in channeling their efforts and energies towards productive endeavors to help expedite our country's development.

I therefore urge the University of Santo Tomas to continue your worthy endeavors in contributing to nation building and the development of our country. Let us work together in leading our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

• • • • • • • • • • • •

I send my warm greetings and congratulations to the academic community of the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas on the occasion of the inauguration of the Thomas Aquinas Research Center. You are actually continuing a legacy of love and service. God gives us gifts. Your diligence and earnest pursuit for academic excellence marked by determination and commitment is a grace from God. Your accomplishment is likewise a marvelous gift from God at a time when times are hard and difficult. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

You have an important role to perform, particularly in the formation of our youth. And if you imbue your work with the love coming from God, certainly you will bear lasting fruits.

I impart my paternal blessings as you journey to become God's living and loving instruments. Your work at the service of our brothers and sisters becomes a fitting gift to the Lord who is the very meaning of every human effort. May He always guide and inspire you and all your endeavors.

May Jesus reward all your efforts!

+ Jaime Card. Sin

+ JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

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The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork. - Psalm 19: 1

On the occasion of the blessing of the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, I convey my warmest greetings and heartfelt felicitations to the whole community of the University of Santo Tomas.

Research, by exploring the greatest and the smallest, contributes to the glory of God which is reflected in every part of the universe. Those involved in research are called in a certain way to have the same experience of wonder as the psalmist.

U.S.T. as an institution of learning is to be complimented for "encouraging the human spirit to develop its faculties of wonder, of understanding, of contemplation, of forming personal judgements and cultivating a religious, moral and social sense" (Gaudium et Spes, 59). We all appreciate the completion of this Complex as a concrete gesture of such commitment.

May St. Thomas Aquinas, who was impartial in his love of truth, inspire you all to seek truth wherever it might be found. (Cf. Fides et Ratio, 44) May Mary, the Seat of Wisdom, be the solace and strength of all who make the journey in search of wisdom.

God bless you all abundantly. Best wishes!

+ Antonio Franco

+ ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO FRANCO
Apostolic Nuncio

• • • • • • • • • • • •

Our warmest felicitations to the administrators, faculty, staff and students of the University of Santo Tomas on the blessing of the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex on 15 November 2001.

Bringing together UST's research facilities in science, technology, social science and education is an excellent move that will benefit not only the UST community but research enthusiasts as well. As an institution of higher learning, improving your research facilities is another proof of your unwavering commitment to quality education and research.

We hope that through the Thomas Aquinas Research complex, more and better researchers will be conducted to help improve education in the country.

Mabuhay!

ESTER A. GARCIA
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education

• • • • • • • • • • • •

The long expected research complex of the University of Santo Tomas has finally come. Standing tall, it reveals unmistakably the beautiful realization of a dream coddled in the minds and hearts of the Thomasian community. It is an incontrovertible testimony to the efforts of so many people who want the university to excel not only in teaching but in research and community service as well.

The new complex is both a reward to our faculty members and students who have achieved much in the field of research in spite of our limited facilities, and an incentive for them to be more dedicated.

We hope that the tribe of Thomasian scientists will increase. In times when science sometimes leads people away from their creator, we need scientists whose discoveries will inspire humanity to proclaim the glory of God. In times when science becomes an instrument to destroy creation, we need scientists whose inventions will respect nature and humanity. They are the scientists that the University of Santo Tomas envisions to bear. And this research complex is meant to be a tribute to them.

May the good Lord bless the good work the university has begun!

REV. FR. ERNESTO M. ARCEO, O.P.
Vice-Grand Chancellor and Chairman of the Board Trustees, University of Santo Tomas

• • • • • • • • • • • •

With profound joy and thanksgiving, I join the Thomasian family in celebrating the inauguration of the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

This occasion signifies the realization of a dream that has seen first light seven years ago during the incumbency of my predecessor, Fr. Rolando V. De La Rosa, O.P.. This dream has been gradually nurtured during my term, and with the dedicated support of the academic community and alumni of the University, has become reality today.

The inauguration of the UST Research Complex is, indeed, the fulfillment of a shared aspiration to house the different areas of academic discipline under one roof. On top of this, the Complex provides an *effective witness* to the church's belief in the intrinsic value of knowledge. It is not just any structure that is similar to those of the Universities around. It possesses a distinct character of being a witness to the cause of truth.

The Research Complex is the response of the University of Santo Tomas to the Holy Father's vision of a Catholic University that promotes the search for integration of knowledge through a dialogue between faith and reason, scrutinizes knowledge in the light of a conscience as a way to promote the cause of the human person, and upholds a theological perspective as a way to enable the disciplines to find meaning in their search for new knowledge.

May this historical milestone inspire every member of the Thomasian community to undertake research as a way of life in the academe and strengthen their commitment to attain the vision that we have set for the University in the fourth centenary of its foundation!

My best wishes and congratulations to all!

FR. TAMERLANE R. LANA, O.P.
Rector, University of Santo Tomas

• • • • • • • • • • • •

The Thomas Aquinas Research Complex indeed fulfills a mission and upholds a vision. It is an expression of the paradigm shift that UST took in carrying out its mission as a university. It affirms a commitment not only to the dissemination of knowledge but also to the generation of knowledge. It is the embodiment of a vision of UST as a research-driven educational institution, wherein teaching and learning are enhanced through an active involvement in the discovery of truth and knowledge.

The Thomas Aquinas Research Complex is a milestone in the endeavor of the university to establish a research culture in the campus. It reflects the progress that has been attained in the development of a critical mass of human resources in several research areas. It expands the physical limits for the research activities that can be conducted in the university. It offers a suitable medium for the interaction of various disciplines in discourses and investigations on solving problems affecting society.

Hopefully, the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex will inspire lofty aspirations and great achievements that can make the celebration of the quadricentennial of the university in 2011 highly memorable.

FORTUNATO SEVILLA III
Assistant to the Rector for Research and Development, University of Santo Tomas

RIVIERA'S LANGER

Cantada, Lopez pace U-Bix golfest

Superal, Delariarte grab piece of lead

BY AL S. MENDOZA

SILANG, Cavite—Gerard Cantada is back for Pro-Am action but not as an amateur. This time, the portly former jungolf standout is now competing as a pro.

Cantada and amateur partner Eddie Boy Lopez shot a two-over-par 73 yesterday in trying conditions to share the lead after Round 1 of the U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am Golf Championship at Langer, Riviera's tough layout.

Cantada, who debuted brilliantly as a pro with a Top 3 finish in the last Philippine Open at Wack Wack, teamed up beautifully with Lopez as they parred 16 holes against two front-nine bogeys.

Back in 1993, Cantada was an amateur paired with the now-retired Rudy Labares. They placed second behind champions Vivencio Lascuna and then-amateur Tony Lascuna.

Tonly Lascuna, a many-time member of the national team like Cantada, is also now a pro. He and partner Thirdy Escano were at 80.

Vivencio Lascuna and national player Jay Bayron were at 78 in a tie with eight other tandems.

"It's nice to be back," said Cantada. "And, of course, it feels great to be among the leaders of this great tournament."

Wendy Superal and Jerome Delariarte also shot a 73 in the tournament that was revived after an absence of six years following 37 years of existence from its birth in 1958 at Fort Bonifacio.

An overflow cast of 120 teams teed off chasing cash prizes and gift certificates from a minimum purse of P1 million staked by U-Bix Corporation.

"Everything went well today," said Bert Bravo, U-Bix Corporation president who initiated the event's revival. "The mood was electric. Our pros warmly welcomed the return of the fabled tournament."

Two shots back behind the leaders at 75 were the pairs of Randy Geralde-Eugene Olofernes, Mario Siodina-Iggy Clavecilla and Jun Cedo-Juami Rocha in the four-day event supported by DHL Philippines through Rod Feliciano, San Miguel Beer, Pagcor, Mizuno through Lovell Gopez and Pacific Grove Tagaytay (Residential Estate).

All alone at 76 were Roger Cabajar and Dionisio Juan while deadlocked at 77 were Jess Casas-Joselito Saragoza, Juanito Pagunsan-Juvic Pagunsan and Joon Choi-Lee Seong Ki in the tournament that stakes a Toyota Altis at the par-3 17th.

Other scores:

78—Fortusa-Delos Santos, F. Fernando-M. Dizon, Pucay-Roy, G. Rosales-Pizarro, Sinfuego-Yulo, R. Minoza-B. Minoza, Manubay-Asistio.

79—Eso-Catalan, Balan-Gironella, Kempis-Vinluan, Salvador-Escalona, Pactolerin-Uchida, R. Arcillas-E. Arcillas.

80—Diocares-Igaya, R. Brobio-Brizuela, T. Lascuna-Escano, A. Cuello-Susarno, A. Fernaod-Wong, Ababa-Shin, Retuerto-Lopez, Jamaya-Que.

81—B. Lopez-Plana, Sasutil-Paz, Mondilla-Jaraulo, C. Casas-Ignacio, D. Delos Santos-Crisostomo, Takahashi-Yasuma, Sumcad-Cho.

82—Ardimer-Gines, R. Casas-Bello, Sanchez-Inigo, Lauron-Salvador, F. Superal-Arceo, Estuesta-Sotto, Abaring-Celestino.

CANTADA (right) and amateur partner Lopez are in deep concentration on their next move during yesterday's Round 1 of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am Golf Championship at Riviera's Langer.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Cuello, Zarate seek $1M; history for Dot

THE PHILIPPINE team of Rodrigo Cuello and Danny Zarate is paired with Argentina's Angel Cabrera and Eduardo Romero in today's opening round of the EMC World Cup of Golf at the Gotemba course of The Taiheyo Golf Club in Shizuoka, Japan.

With the biting cold adding to the already tough task of shooting it out with the world's best shotmakers, Cuello and Zarate are both hoping weeks of preparation would give them a chance of figuring well in the chase for the top prize of $1 million (about P52 million).

In the United States, Dorothy Joy "Dot" Delasin seeks history when she joins an elite 30-player field for the $1-million Tyco/ADT Championship starting Thursday (Friday in Manila) at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Delasin, a two-leg winner this season with earnings of $609,792, just needs $51,096 or a tie for fourth to become the youngest player in LPGA history to cross the $1 million mark in career earnings at 21 years, 2 months and 23 days.

Brandie Burton currently holds the record at 21 years, 7 months and 21 days, which she set in 1993.

The Philippine Airlines-sponsored RP Cuppers, who made it to the World Cup proper after tying for fourth in the qualifying event in Kuala Lumpur, tee off at 9:18 a.m. (8:18 a.m. Manila time).

The final pairing features the defending champion United States tandem of Tiger Woods and David Duval alongside Toshimitsu Izawa and Shigeki Maruyama of the host country.

The RP Cuppers are already guaranteed of getting at least $15,000 (about P750,000) each, exclusive of taxes even if they finish last out of the 24 teams in the field.

Zarate, making his second trip to the World Cup proper, trained for the event by wearing thick sweaters and even three-layered outfits even in warm weather in anticipation of the cold weather in Japan. *Jong Arcano*

Woods says he is no wounded Tiger

WOODS

GOTEMBA, Japan—Tiger Woods is still suffering from a sore back two weeks after suffering an injury which has raised questions over his ability to sustain his dominance of world golf into his 30's and 40's.

But the world number one insists the problem will be the last thing on his mind when he tees off alongside David Duval here today as overwhelming favorites to retain golf's World Cup team title for the United States.

After a practice round at Gotemba's prestigious Taiheiyo Club in the foothills of Mount Fuji, Woods admitted his back was still bothering him at times but not when he was out on the course.

"The joints are moving perfectly fine and I have a full range of motion, but it is going to be a little sore for a while," he acknowledged.

Woods, 25, suffered the injury while being "worked on" on the eve of the US Tour Championship in Houston Texas at the start of the month. He admitted then having to make adjustments to his swing and described the first round as the most painful of his life.

Since then, however, the American has been at pains to play down the extent of the damage, conscious perhaps of the number of older professionals who have warned that his willowy striking action will inevitably lead to problems in the lower back, the Achilles heel of all golfers.

Australia's Greg Norman predicted last week that injury would help prevent Woods from equalling Jack Nicklaus's record of 18 major titles.

But Woods insisted he no longer thought about the problem when he was playing and said his back had stood up well to the rigours of his long flight to Shenzen in southern China, where he played in an exhibition tournament at the weekend.

"I was a little worried about the 18-hour flight to Shenzen. I thought it might tighten up a little but it has been great." *AFP*

PAL WINNERS

Overall net champion Jose Cervantes, Jr. (left) and lowest gross winner Valeriano "Bones" Floro (right) pose with PAL executive vice president Henry So Uy (center) during the awarding rites of the PAL Mabuhay Golf Championship at Eagle Ridge. Floro, golf director of Wack-Wack GCC, fired four birdies en route to a gross 75 while Cervantes, president of Design Packaging Industries, scored a net 69 out of a gross 82.

Tight battle seen in scooter

ANOTHER tight, three-way battle among Jaime Barcial, Mark Anthony Chua and defending champion Jolet Jao looms in the expert open category when the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships 2001 resume with the sixth and penultimate leg this Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Barcial, who dominated three of the first five legs, is nursing a precarious 15-point lead over Chua in the overall standings with only two legs remaining in the prestigious seven-part series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and sponsored by Shell Advance.

Barcial has a five-round aggregate of 154 points against Chua's 139 points.

Jao, who bagged the overall title last year, is a close third overall with 124 points.

Also within striking distance are Sonny Villarama and Edwin Buenaventura, who are running fourth and fifth with 109 and 106 points, respectively; and Gilbert Maningas, who topped the fourth and fifth legs.

Fast-rising R.B. Santos will also try to firm up his grip on the overall lead in both the Yamaha 50cc and multi-brand 50cc categories.

Santos, who is also being personally trained by Jao, is way ahead in the Yamaha 50cc class with five-leg total of 173 points against Robert Altea's 146 points. The Malabon-based campaigner is also ahead by nine points over Ivan Santiago, 169-160, in the multi-brand 50cc category.

The other favored riders are Maningas (90cc), Mark Anthony Barcial (70cc) and Chito Barcenas (Yamaha Force 1).

Gamboa revives Sampaguita Rally

CLOSE to 200 motoring enthusiasts are expected to participate in the revival of the Sampaguita Rally.

Supported by Shell Helix and the TV show Motoring Today, the event has drawn big corporations not in the motoring industry.

"The response has been tremendous so far," said Butch Gamboa of Motoring Today. "Even motor sports icons have confirmed their entry to the event."

Automotive manufacturers and distributors like Toyota, Honda, General Motors, Isuzu and PGA Cars have already confirmed their entries to the rally dubbed as Shell Helix-Motoring Today Corporate Motor Sports Challenge.

Alaska grabs q'final berth

GAMES TOMORROW (Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Barangay Ginebra
7:10 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk N Text

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ALASKA whipped Shell, 86-68, last night to snatch a quarterfinal seat and eliminate Tanduay and Purefoods outright in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The Aces finished their elimination campaign at 6-7 and will advance to the next phase occupying the sixth quarterfinal slot.

Despite the loss, however, the Turbo Chargers, who ended up 8-4, still wound up at the top entering the quarterfinals.

As it is, the Turbo Chargers will face No. 8 qualifier Barangay Ginebra while San Miguel Beer, which grabbed the No. 4 slot, tangles with No. 5 Talk N Text on Friday.

St. Lucia Realty, which landed at No. 2, meets No. 7 Batang Red Bull even as Pop Cola (No. 3) collides with Alaska on Sunday.

Shell, Sta. Lucia Realty, Pop Cola and San Miguel Beer need to beat their respective opponents only once to clinch a semifinal berth.

Earlier, Purefoods reasserted its mastery over Batang Red Bull, 123-112.

Ateneo debuts today in PBL

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs Ateneo-Pioneer
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI Archers vs Ana Freezers

FAR Eastern University hotshot Leo Avenido makes his debut with Ateneo-Pioneer as the Insurers open their title bid against Montaña Jewels today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

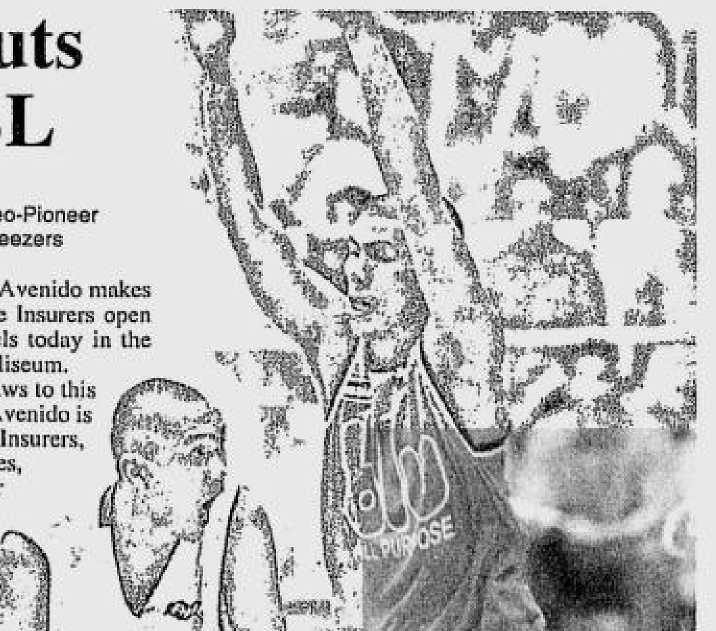
Despite failing to lead the Tamaraws to this year's UAAP title, the high-scoring Avenido is expected to play a crucial role as the Insurers, composed mostly of Ateneo Blue Eagles, make a serious attempt to earn their first PBL title.

Ricky Dandan, formerly of the Manila Metrostars and longtime assistant mentor of Joe Lipa, will handle the coaching chores as Ateneo-Pioneer debuts against winless Montaña at 3:30 p.m.

The International Container Terminal Services Incorporated backed La Salle will also start its campaign as it meets on and off Ana Freezers at 5:30 p.m.

Gunner Ren Ren Ritualo, who plays for Welcoat, will not see action for the Franz Pumaren-coached Archers, who recently won their fourth straight UAAP title.

Despite the absence of Ritualo, the Archers remain deadly with the presence of the exciting Mike Cortez and comebacking BJ Manalo, who played crucial roles in their successful UAAP campaign.



EMERSON Oreta (left) of Ana Freezers tries to fake Arnold Calo of Blu Detergent in their PBL game Tuesday. Blu won, 90-68.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Eagles defeat Patriots, stay alive for No. 2

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L	Southern Conference		
LBC Batangas	11	1	Negros	9	4
FedEx Laguna	10	3	Cebuana Lhuillier	4	9
Andok's San Juan	8	4	TPG Davao	4	10
Nueva Ecija	3	10	Socsargen-Taguig	3	11

BY ROY LUARCA

GAMES TOMORROW
(Cebu Coliseum)
3 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Cebuana Lhuillier
San Luis Sports Complex, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
5:30 p.m.—Andok's San Juan vs FedEx Laguna

CABANATUAN CITY—Peter June Simon can easily score if he wants to. Defying all guards thrown against him, the 6-foot rookie fired a career-high 41 points yesterday to power the TPG Davao Eagles past the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 112-105, in the MBA Second Phase at the Araullo Gym here.

The Eagles thus wound up the eliminations with a 4-win, 10-loss record and kept their hope of landing at No. 2 in the Southern Conference following Andok's San Juan's 100-90 victory over the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems in the second game at the Cebu City Coliseum.

Andok's San Juan rose to 8-4 while Cebuana Lhuillier dropped to 4-9 and needs to win in its last game against LBC Batangas to emerge second behind Negros (9-4) and gain the homecourt edge in its slated best-of-three semis series with TPG Davao.

Montoya captures Shell chessfest

EDSEL Montoya booked 8.5 points to capture the P20,000 champion's purse plus a gold medal in the recent 2001 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships grand finals at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Montoya of La Carlota City crushed Metro Manila finalist Arnel Nino D. Aton in their round-10 duel, before forging a draw in his final-round tussle with Metro Manila champion Froilan Bolico III to bag the junior title.

SPORTSWATCH

Canseco arrested

MIAMI BEACH, Florida—Jose Canseco was arrested on charges he and his brother got into a nightclub fight that left one man with a broken nose and another needing 20 stitches in his lip. The baseball star was charged Tuesday with two counts of aggravated battery in the Halloween night scuffle. His twin brother, Ozzie, was charged with one count. The brothers were taken to jail on Tuesday night and were expected to post bond. *AP*

Softbelles leave

THE PHILIPPINE girls softball team leaves today for the United States to compete in the 2001 ISF-ASA World Cup softball crown Nov. 17-23 in Plant City, Florida. Powered by young players with international experience, the players are capable of winning the crown, according to softball president Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera. Forty-two teams from 13 countries are competing, 16 of them coming from different parts of the United States.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Race for Gold 2. North Shine 3. Jetli/Golden Child 4. Wassapenin 5. Jinky

Race 2—1. Fair Ringer 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Fortune Maker 4. Easy Win 5. Rivine Master

Race 3—1. Boogie Shoes 2. Grupo Grupo 3. Hurry Love 4. Ticket to Fame 5. Cash McCall

Race 4—1. Freshman 2. Free Time 3. Full Show 4. Real Charm 5. Deputy Royale

Race 5—1. Ocean Dignity 2. Roulete Queen 3. Beatitudes 4. Hong Kong Girl 5. Cardinal Rule

Race 6—1. Suterian Era 2. Cubano 3. Lady Queen 4. Black Force 5. Rainmaker

Race 7—1. Union City Boy 2. Imus Emperor 3. Tender Value 4. Shuttle's Magic 5. Dona Evelyn

Race 8—1. Don't Worry 2. Turkish Delight 3. She's So Sure 4. Touch of Luck 5. Red Hahn

Race 9—1. Windy City 2. Jessie James 3. T Square 4. Summit Power 5. Top Mark 6. Pride of Mandaue

NBA RESULTS

Nets 91, Pacers 82; 76ers 82, Heat 76; Knicks 89, Trail Blazers 82; Kings 95, Raptors 86; Cavaliers 107, Timberwolves 103; Nuggets 101, Bulls 93; Spurs 90, Rockets 86; Suns 92, SuperSonics 91 *AP*

IVANISEVIC

Wild card Goran extends 'Guga's' misery

SYDNEY, Australia—Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic played the perfect wild card again Tuesday, extending top-ranked Gustavo "Guga" Kuerten's miserable stretch with an upset 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4 win at the season-ending Masters Cup.

With his No. 1 ranking on the line in the ATP's Champions Race, Kuerten needed a win to get some breathing space on No. 2 Lleyton Hewitt and No. 3 Andre Agassi, who both had wins in their opening games Monday at Sydney's SuperDome.

But the unpredictable Ivanisevic—who earlier this year became the first wild card to win a Wimbledon final—raced through the first set in 25 minutes on six aces and 15 winners and finished it off in 1 hour, 51 minutes.

Kuerten got the better of a serving slugfest in second set, earning a mini break on the fifth point tiebreaker and then reeling off five consecutive points to ensure a deciding set.

But Ivanisevic absorbed the pressure, saving five break points and holding serve to go 1-1 in the third set and then breaking Kuerten at love in the next game.

He fought back from 15-40 with five aces in the sixth game to maintain his break and then, after earning match point with ace No. 28, he clinched it with a strong backhand, cross court volley.

Earlier, Yevgeny Kafelnikov blamed his erratic start on an unusually high net and jet-lag before he rallied to beat Masters Cup rookie Juan Carlo Ferrero 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5) in his opener at the US $3.7 million event. *AP*

Big test for Hewitt

SYDNEY—US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt can take a step nearer overhauling Gustavo Kuerten as world No 1 if he beats Australian Open champion Andre Agassi in the Masters Cup later Wednesday.

Both players won their opening round matches while Kuerten, the French Open champion, lost to Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic.

Sebastien Grosjean and Patrick Rafter play later in the day. *AFP*

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Bicol netfest on tap

BICOL netters take centerstage when the Camp Ola Tennis Club in Legazpi hosts the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop on Nov. 16-18.

The 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop is being coordinated with the office of Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara and project director Chino Arcangel and Tony Reyes.

Featured events in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

Deadline for registration is set at 12 noon on Friday, Nov. 16 with the draw to follow immediately.

Korea, India net bets set up quarterfinal duel

DEFENDING champion Kim Hye-Jin of Korea dumped Deena Rose Cruz, 6-2, 6-1 yesterday to arrange a quarterfinal duel with top seed Radhika Tulpule of India in the women's singles of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor court in Paco.

Tulpule outclassed Karen Reyes, 6-1, 6-0, to advance.

Joining Tulpule in the next round were third seed Sonal Phadke, who beat Petrona Bantay, 6-1, 6-2, and No. 8 Josephine Paguyo, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over Sue Donald.

In the doubles, top seeds Kim Hye-Jin and Kim Yoo-Jeong of Korea demolished Bantay and Paguyo, 6-0, 6-0, while second seeds Radhika Mandke and Phadke downed Shirley Valler and Karen Valeri, 6-0, 6-1, to reach the quarterfinals of this event supported by Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, Eastern Telecom, Stronghold Insurance, PVL Restaurant, Little Lawrence, Wilson, Unilab, Cathay Drug Company, Copacobana Hotel and official ball Dunlop.

Other winners were No. 3 Czarina Mae Arevalo and Rina Caniza, Divina Escala and Cruz, Liza Buenbrazo and Sommer Bisagas, Tina Gomez and Janet Uy, Julie Ann Cadiente and Charise Godoy and Karen Reyes and Kristel Samala.

In the men's doubles, No. 10 Alexander Lazaro and Michael Misa upset No. 5 Cris Cuarto and Jaime Solon, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-1 to advance in the quarterfinals against top seeds Johnny Arcilla and Michael Mora III.

Also posting reversals were No. 12 Jayjay Stewart and Junjun Toledo over No. 6 Ronald Paz and Nino Salvador, 6-4, 6-1; and unseeded Henry Lee III and Randy Villanueva over No. 14 Terrence Estrope and Pierre Fernandez, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

In other matches, No. 2 Song Hyeong Keun of Korea and local Pio Tolentino outplayed Julius Kraut and Charlie Niu, 6-1, 6-0; No. 7 Roland Kraut and Joseph Victorino defeated Chiemel Mantua and Von Ruelan, 7-5, 6-3; No. 9 Tonito Payumo and Beeyong Sison clobbered Luisito Clores and Antonio Sagansay, 6-1, 6-4; while Jesse Lapore and Pop Sabandon beat Richmond Paguyo and Ivan Torrecampo, 6-2, 7-5.

First-round winners in the mixed doubles are Johan Guba-Stephanie Kimura, Marty Ilagan-DJ Suarez, Orlando Silvoza-Bantay, Conrado Amita-Donald, Elbert Anasta-Karen Valera, Karl Sta. Maria-Cadiente, Gino Almario-Bisagas, Joey Escobido-Alyssa Labay, Eddie Gomez-Joy Sanchez, and Nico Faller-Janet Uy.

CHAMPIONS

Justice Martin S. Villarama Jr. and Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada beat the tandem of lawyers Vic Mamalateo and Vicente Gamad in the recently concluded 2001 Judiciary-BIR Tennis Tournament. Awarding the trophy is Justice Godardo A. Jacinto.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOXING: Last Man Standing (IBF/ WBO Super Bantamweight Championship) – Manny Pacquiao vs Agapito Sanchez at 6:30 p.m. (r) on IBC 13

BASKETBALL: US NCAA Preseason NIT, Second Round at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on ESPN

NBA - Orlando Magic vs Phoenix Suns at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Senior PGA - Our Lucaya Senior Slam Highlights at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

HOCKEY: NHL - Philadelphia Flyers vs New York Rangers at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsport News 2001 at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Max Power at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: 1985 World Series, Game 7 - St. Louis Cardinals vs Kansas City Royals at 9 p.m. on ESPN

SOCCER: Beach Soccer Worldwide - Spain vs Portugal at noon (r – 4:30 p.m.) on ESPN

English Premier Football League at noon on Star Sports

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7-Up grabs hockey lead

7-UP Green grabbed the solo lead in the elimination round on Saturday of the Pepsi Cup 2nd Season In-Line Roller Hockey by beating Mountain Dew Yello Gold 8-2 at GameworX fourth level of Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The Greeners leaned on their scoring machine Jr. Torio, with six goals and one assist, while Pakko Mendez contributed one goal and three assists.

Alden Lapiz shared one goal as 7-Up grabbed the early lead in the Senior division with a 3-0 win-loss record.

Mountain Dew Yello Gold's loss relegated them to second spot with a 2-1 card in the tournament that will last until Dec. 22.

"We're now leading the team standing. I hope that stays up to the final," Torio said.

In the second game, Mirinda Orange finally won their first game after three outings by outsteadying Pepsi Blue, 4-1.

Mirinda took the third position in the team standings with a 1-2 record, while Pepsi Blue remained winless after three games.

"The tournament is getting more exciting this time. I'm inviting everyone to visit us here at GameworX to watch the league," GameworX Marketing OIC Christian Datol said.

Thailand shooters move up

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—Defending champion Thailand overtook erstwhile leader Indonesia in the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) Armies Rifle Meet in Palayan City here Tuesday.

But host Philippines had something to cheer for as it moved up to third place in the Top Gun Championship with 39 points behind Thailand C (45) and Thailand A (41) in the [illegible]ation army tournament.

The crack shooters of Thailand registered a total team index of 86 for first place in the Machine Gun Team championship, followed by Malaysia's 74 and the Philippines with 72.

The Thais also posted 157 total index score to top the Carbine Match 2 with Singapore dogging them with 149 in second place and Indonesia in third with 142.

The Philippines was fourth with 129 with Pfc Armando Mejia leading the charge with an index of 41 but with little help from teammates.

Singapore's Noor Azman bin Tubi was the surprise winner in the Rifle Match I Individual competition with 80, with second placer Pfc Rodney Rizano of the Philippines just a point behind at 9 and Malaysia's Lepl Jani Bin Talib in third.

Indonesia had a grand slam finish in the Individual Pistol Match 1 with Serda Joko R's 49 and towing teammates Serda Ridho and Pratu Usman with 48 and 47 points, respectively.

In the Individual honors for Carbine Match 2, Thailand's Sgt. Surasak Suknok garnered 304 points for the top position. Indonesia's Serda Subata came up with 301, Singapore's Bsg Bobby Kor 298 and the Philippines' PFC Armando Mejia in fourth with 295.

Indonesia had its share of glory in the team result for Pistol Match 1 with Serda Joko R (49), Serda Ridho (48), Pratu Usman (47) and Pratu Totok (45) scoring a total index of 180.

Thailand was runner-up with 155 total points. Third was Singapore with 139 and host Philippines in fourth place with 135.

Mandaluyong derby tonight

THE SECOND LGBA 6-Stag Derby championship round gets going at the Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight. More than 60 quality fights are on tap.

Those who scored two victories each in the eliminations were Ricky Castillo of Laguna (E-68), Wilson Go of Metro Manila (632 Gamefarm), lawyer Joey Mendoza of Talim Island, Rizal (Tagapo Farm) and engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum), Edwin Aranez and Raffy Campos (BL Unica Hija), Mike Buendia (Buenas Diaz) and Dax Ganzon (JFDS Rabies), all from Batangas.

Rizal's Biboy Enriquez (UCAP March 19-21) split his matches to keep a shaky lead in the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race with 8.5 points. Sevilla has 8 points while LGBA president Boy Diaz and Sandy Javier (Royal Maverick Purple Haze II) have 7 points.

"At this stage of the competition, everybody has a chance to grab the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year award. That's why it is expected they will field their one-time stag derby winners," Diaz explained.

The third and final LGBA 6-Stag Derby is slated on Nov. 20 and 22 and interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Sponsors of the event are Washout Shampoo, Wormal, Enertone, Promotor '43, Respigen 14 and Votplex.

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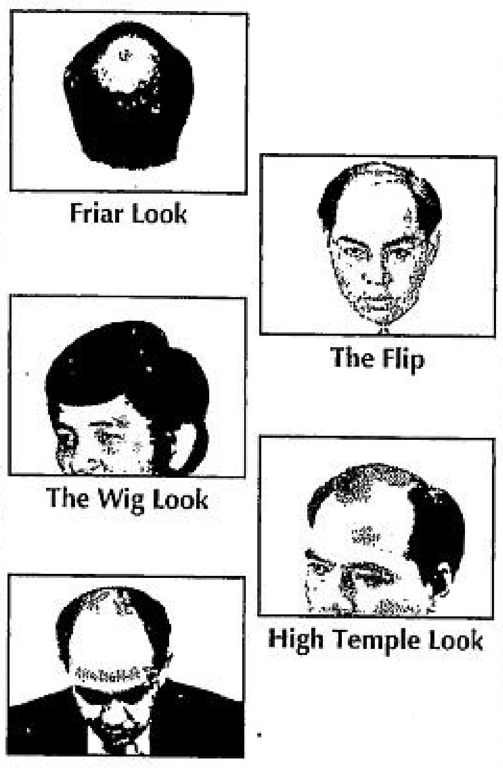

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Acap wants Palace official in dialogue

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ATHLETES and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines won't show up to its planned meeting today with the Philippine Sports Commission officials unless a representative from the Presidential Management Staff is sent to oversee the 10 a.m. dialogue at the PSC building.

This was disclosed yesterday by Acap president Jaime Sebastian, who said that without a third party coming from Malacañang, the meeting would be a repetition of the group's numerous talks with PSC officials led by chair Butch Tuason.

"In those meetings, Tuason just gave up promises which were broken," said Sebastian of his group's previous dialogues with the PSC chair. "On Thursday, we need a representative from the PMS to at least monitor the meeting and make sure he (Tuason) will be true to his words."

President Arroyo scheduled the meeting last week during a separate talk with Acap officials, but she obviously won't make it because she was set to depart for the United States last night.

At any rate, the President already gave two instructions to Tuason regarding the athletes and they involved pay hikes and a promise to improve the quality of service of the food handlers inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The PSC chair said he hopes Sebastian would reconsider because whether they attend the meeting or not, he has no other choice but to carry out the orders from the President.

Tuason also said the agency is doing everything to improve the living conditions of the athletes and that he hopes today's meeting will once and for all appease the disgruntled group.

'Bata' wins again

EFREN "Bata" Reyes subdued Niels Feijen of the Netherlands, 15-5, to win the prestigious Tokyo 9-Ball International Billiard Tournament yesterday at the Convention Center in Tokyo, Japan.

The victory was worth a whopping $160,000 (approximately P8.3 million) for Reyes, who advanced to the final by taming compatriot Warren Kiamco, 13-5.

Feijen, who beat Taiwanese Fong Pang Chao to arrange the meeting with Reyes, settled for $64,000.

Prior to the event, Reyes beat Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee, 13-5, in the LG Flatron Billiards Challenge here.

He accomplished the feat against Lee after topping the Accu Stats 8-Ball Invitatinoal in Los Angeles.

Some 700 cue artists from 32 countries joined the Tokyo meet, considered the largest pool tournament ever.

Tuason tops Asian car racing tourney

TUASON

ZHUHAI, China—Two-time Karter of the Year Jean Pierre Tuason outshone a tough field of car drivers to rule the 1st Asian Formula Challenge at the Zhuhai International Circuit here recently.

Carrying the colors of Standard Insurance-Kace Electronics-Toyota Alabang Racing Team, JP showed excellent maneuvering skills as he clocked faster and even overtook more powerful Formula Renault cars in this Formula 3 event with a field of 22 Filipino, Hong Kong and British drivers.

"This win is for the country. I'm proud that a Filipino made it as the first winner of the Formula Toyota 1600 Cup in this very first Asian Formula Challenge," said Tuason, CEO of the Tuason Racing Project which will organize the 2nd Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup slated Dec. 1-2 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

"This only proves that Filipino drivers have gone a long way and are ready to conquer the international scene," he added.

Tuason could have made it double but an incident in the second race forced him out of the race. Enzo Pastor, another Formula Toyota Driver, bumped into fellow Filipino driver Kirk Arambulo who went uncontrollable and also bumped into Tuason.

Tuason damaged his suspension but Arambulo only suffered a broken front wing and was still able to get back on track to rule the second race.

Pastor may also face disciplinary action from the Philippine Motor Association since it was the second time he bumped Arambulo that day, causing damage to both cars and another Formula Renault entry.

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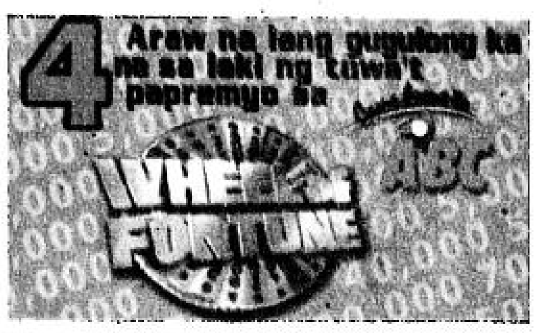
4
Araw na lang gugulong ka na sa laki ng tuwa't papremyo sa
Wheel of Fortune
ABC

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

4
Araw na lang pasikatan na ng mga pamilya sa
ABC
Family Feud

'Mayors conspired for kickbacks'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

METRO Manila mayors conspired to "manufacture a garbage crisis" to force the public to accept incinerators as the most viable solution to the worsening problem, according to Greenpeace Philippines.

Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia, yesterday alleged that mayors "deliberately refused to collect garbage efficiently to create a (garbage) crisis and thus, force the public to buy the idea of incinerators."

"(The move) is a virtual sabotage of the Clean Air Act and an assault on the environment," Hernandez said.

ATIENZA

Metro Manila mayors, led by Lito Atienza of Manila, have recently come up with a proposal to lift the ban on the use of incinerators to lick the garbage crisis in the metropolis.

But Hernandez said Greenpeace and other environmental groups are prepared to block this move "whatever it takes."

Hernandez said the mayors are pushing for the use of incinerators since the local executives allegedly stand to earn "huge amounts in possible kickbacks and commissions" from the project.

An ordinary US$450-million incinerator that can process 4,500 tons of garbage daily would require $60 to $90 in "tipping fee," according to Hernandez.

MAYORS/ A26

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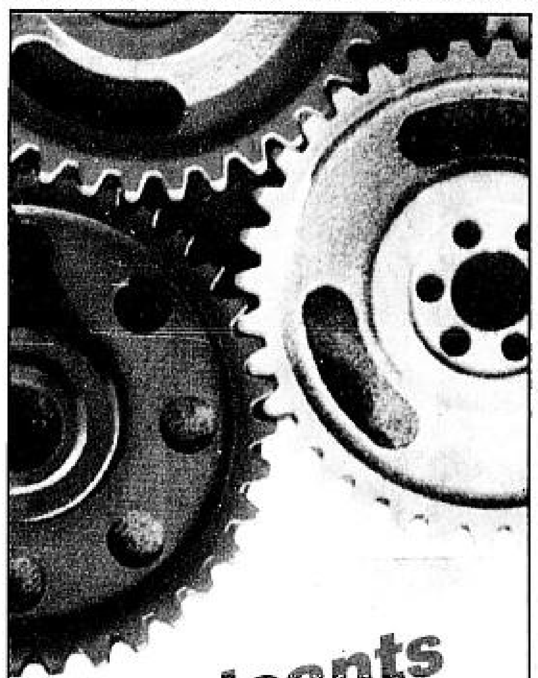

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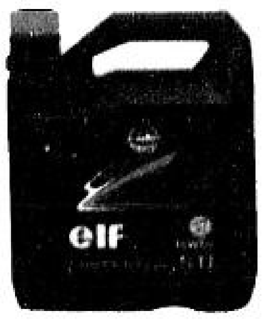

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Ex-cop gunned down by vengeful NPA men

By Nelson F. Flores

SUSPECTED communist hit men shouted "Long Live the NPA" after they gunned down a former policeman and resort owner on a busy street in Rodriguez town, Rizal yesterday morning, witnesses told police.

Rizal provincial police officials, on high alert after they received intelligence reports that communist guerillas were set to mount offensive operations in the province, identified the victim as Leonardo Santos, 51.

Santos, formerly with the defunct Philippine Constabulary and resident of Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal, was shot in the head with .45-caliber and .9mm pistols and was pronounced dead at the H-Vill Hospital.

Witnesses described the suspects as "young-looking." The gunmen were last seen heading toward Barangay Wawa where they were reportedly joined by 20 other armed men, police said.

The gunmen opened fire just as Santos, on board a Honda Civic, was passing by M.H. Del Pilar Street, Barangay San Rafael, about 10 a.m.

Santos was killed about 200 meters away from his house, said SPO1 Joselito Lagutan, desk officer of the Rodriguez Municipal Police.

Witnesses told police that the assailants shouted "long live the NPA" after the attack and flagged down a passenger jeepney which took them to Barangay Wawa.

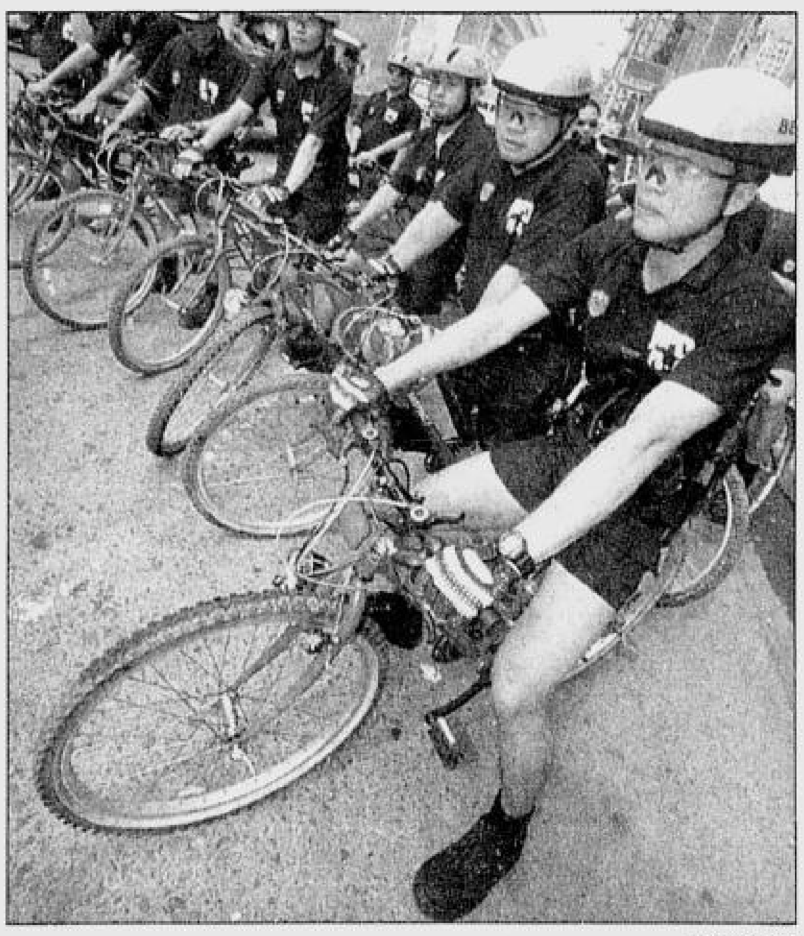
The gunmen then left a note claiming Santos was sentenced to death by the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the New People's Army after the victim was found guilty of crimes against the people like landgrabbing of ancestral lands of minority groups and participation in numerous salvage operations against leaders of cause-oriented groups, Lagutan said.

The gunmen also cited Santos' alleged support for the counter-insurgency operations of the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, Lagutan said.

RPPO Director Supt. Arturo Tolentino ordered the provincial Police Mobile Group and other PNP units to pursue the NPA guerillas in their lair.

According to an intelligence source, Santos' ambush-slaying is part of an NPA operation to avenge the death of four farmers who were killed by men of the PNP Special Action Force in Antipolo City last month. They claimed more NPA operations would follow.

"Somehow we will get them (the NPA)," a source in the intelligence community said. "We are now working triple time toward that end."



ERIK ARAZAS

U-BELT BIKE PATROL

THESE are not racers waiting for the starting gun. These are city cops who have been trained to maintain peace and order and, specifically, to chase criminals by weaving in and out of traffic and other tight spots mainly around the University Belt while riding on their bikes. They are called the PNP Bike Patrol.

Insubordinate customs official

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE KIDNAPPING spree is not the work of people out to earn from ransom payments, they're the work of people out to embarrass the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Why the sudden rise in kidnapping incidents after GMA took over last January?

The answer is obvious: the Erap administration controlled the kidnapping incidents because it was in cahoots with criminal syndicates like the Kuratong Baleleng.

***

With the oodles and oodles of money Erap and his partners in crime accumulated during his short-lived watch, he can afford to finance a destabilization venture against the government.

One such destabilization move is having criminal gangs engage in kidnapping and other crime sprees.

And the effect is that the crime wave seems to be out of control,

***

There goes Sen. Panfilo Lacson again! He delivered another privilege speech Tuesday exposing the "jueteng payola" on the Senate floor.

Of course, because of his position, his exposé got good publicity even if it's old hat.

What Lacson exposed was nothing new: everybody knows that police officials are on the take from *jueteng* lords.

***

Even when Lacson was the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), *jueteng* was rampant. His subordinates were on the take.

A good showman, Ping Lacson made a gesture of relieving subordinates who could not stop *jueteng* in their turf.

But now we all know that was only for show as his boss Erap was himself cavorting with *jueteng* lords.

We now also know why Lacson didn't accept money from *jueteng* lords because he was a drug lord and king of smugglers and kidnappers. The money he would have earned from *jueteng* was a drop in the bucket compared to what he was earning as a drug lord, kidnapper and smuggler.

***

One of his former subordinates at the infamous Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) said Lacson would tell his men not to accept reward money from families of kidnap victims that they had rescued.

But then a few months later, according to this former subordinate, Lacson would approach the family of the erstwhile kidnap victim and ask for business concessions for himself.

"He's a hypocrite, Mon. *Gusto niya sa kanya lang mapunta lahat ang pera,*" this former Lacson subordinate said.

That's why he and Erap went well together. Both of them are greedy.

***

In his privilege speech, Lacson linked Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to the jueteng payola.

Ask any *jueteng* lord or lady: he or she will tell you that the NBI does not get protection money from the *jueteng* racket. Only the police and local officials are given bribe money.

On that score alone, Lacson is again caught lying.

***

Why did he link Wycoco to the *jueteng* scam?

Because Wycoco, his former subordinate at the PNP, is investigating his involvement in the murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver.

Incidentally, Lacson hates the NBI chief because Wycoco nearly got the top PNP post instead of him.

In fact, according to my sources, Erap had already signed the papers appointing Wycoco as PNP chief when Lacson learned about it.

Wycoco's appointment was scrapped after then President Estrada had a long talk with Lacson. Erap feared Lacson so much he would do anything at his bidding.

***

Remember that time Lacson told Charlie "Atong" Ang and other friends that if he wasn't appointed PNP chief, he would have President Erap arrested?

"He would probably be the first president to be arrested," Lacson was quoted by his friends as saying.

Lacson could afford to say that because he and Erap were partners in crime.

***

Everybody at the Bureau of Customs is afraid of former Col. Billy Bibit, the customs collector at the Subic Bay freeport.

When Bibit growls like a lion, even his boss, Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva, trembles in fear.

This was proven when Villanueva relieved Bibit as Subic Bay freeport collector and replaced him with Felipe Bartolome, collector at the South Harbor. Bibit didn't want to budge from his lucrative post, a haven of big-time smugglers like Lucio Co.

***

Commissioner Villanueva tried to placate Bibit. He told Bibit that he was going to another lucrative post, the Clark Air base customshouse.

But Bibit doesn't want to move from his post. He continues to disobey the customs commissioner.

Bibit, whose claim to fame is his being a member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement or RAM, has told his customs colleagues nobody can make him budge from the Subic Bay freeport.

"*Dadanak ang dugo kapag pinaalis ako dito* (Blood will flow if they take me out here)," Bibit was quoted as saying.

Hey, former coup pal ! Don't you have any shame? Why do you continue to hold on to your post after you have been relieved? What's there at Subic Bay freeport that you would defy orders from superiors for your relief?

Huwag mo namang takutin ang mga boss *mo*!

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Summary judgment—Under Rule 35 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, except as to the amount of damages, when there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law, summary judgment may be allowed. Summary or accelerated judgment is a procedural technique aimed at weeding out sham claims or defenses at an early stage of the litigation thereby avoiding the expense and loss of time involved in a trial. The law itself determines when a summary judgment is proper. Under the rules, summary judgment is appropriate when there are no genuine issues of fact which call for the presentation of evidence in a full-blown trial. Even if on their face the pleadings appear to raise issues, when the affidavits, depositions and admissions show that such issues are not genuine, then summary judgment as prescribed by the rules must ensue as a matter of law. What is crucial for determination, therefore, is the presence or absence of a genuine issue as to any material fact. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Evadel Realty and Development Corporation v. Spouses Soriano, G.R. No. 144291, April 20, 2001]

Digest by R. B. Vera

Killer makes sure tabloid writer is dead

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

A TABLOID entertainment columnist said to be the publicist of starlet Halina Perez was shot dead inside a passenger bus in Quezon City.

Robert Perez, 26, a movie columnist of Pilipino Star Ngayon and a resident of 15 Aldrin St., Dona Faustina Subdivision in Tandang Sora, died about 4 a.m. yesterday at the Far Eastern University Hospital after an unidentified man shot him twice in the head, police said.

Central Police District investigators were looking at a personal grudge angle as the motive in the killing.

Police said Perez was on his way home on board a Lucky 7 bus (plate number PXN 904) with his friend Carmelo Magadia about 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. When the bus was crossing Regalada Avenue in Lagro, a man who had apparently tailed Perez stood up and shot him at close range with a .45 pistol.

Magadia told police that he and Perez had just come from a meeting in SM Fairview and were on their way home.

Officer-on-case SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos of the CPD criminal investigation unit said the suspect could have been a hired killer and that robbery was not behind Perez's murder. He said Perez and the other bus passengers were not robbed.

Witnesses told police the suspect made sure Perez was dying before he alighted from the bus and escaped.

Magadia and other passengers rushed Perez to the hospital where he died about eight hours after the shooting.

Corpus assures Gabriela

MILITARY intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus yesterday cried foul over accusations that his men were spying on members of the militant women's group Gabriela.

"That's unfair. We have no operations against Gabriela much less against a children's day-care center," said Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Corpus was reacting to allegations that supposed Isafp agents are monitoring Gabriela members and even tried to recruit as an informer Relita Malundras, a teacher at the Gabriela-affiliated Bahay Lunduyan Learning Center for children.

"I would like to assure Gabriela that it is not a subject of Isafp operations," Corpus said.

Malundras was reportedly offered P150,000 in cash, mobile phones and a monthly stipend to spy on her colleagues in Gabriela.

But Corpus said: "I have checked and no Isafp agents are carrying out missions in connection with Gabriela."

Carlito Pablo

Found dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

DOLORES Comaling yesterday committed, suicide after she reportedly learned that the man she was engaged to was already married.

Comaling, 22, a housemaid in Barangay San Antonio, Parañaque City, went to a friend to seek advice about her relationship with her married boyfriend, police said.

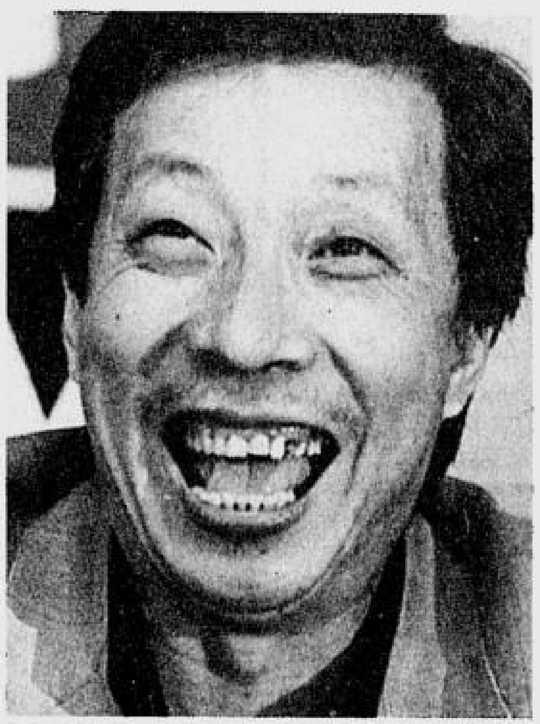
Comaling reportedly told her friend that the man also recently proposed to marry her.

Afterward, the woman went back to her employer's house in San Antonio and was found dead inside a room on the second floor about 6 a.m., police said.

The victim's body was taken to the Vasquez Funeral Home for autopsy.

He loves speed, but did GTK ask court to go slow?

By Rocky Nazareno



GO TENG KOK

HE won admirers for having produced medal-winning runners, but a case is being revived against Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association Go Teng Kok for allegedly asking a prosecutor to "go slow" on a drug trafficking case.

On Tuesday, Sen. Rene Cayetano asked whatever happened to the obstruction of justice case against Go now that main suspect Yu Yuk Lai has finally been convicted and Court of Appeals Justice Demetrio Demetria and trial court judge Manuel Muro have already been dealt with by the Supreme Court?

Cayetano raised the question after the High Court recently ordered the dismissal of Demetria and Muro for committing administrative and criminal offenses.

"As far as I know, we have already recommended to the Department of Justice the immediate prosecution of Go and all those involved in the Yu Yuk Lai case," Cayetano told the INQUIRER.

Cayetano was chair of the Senate committee on justice in the 11th Congress which held an investigation last year to look into allegations made by DOJ prosecutors that Go and Demetria had tried to intervene in the drug case of Yu.

During the committee probe, Cayetano recalled that Go had admitted he indeed went to the office of state prosecutor Pablo Formaran III to inquire about Yu's case.

"Go admitted having gone to Formaran's office so I am wondering why no case is moving against him," Cayetano said.

Go, who is also the president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, yesterday told the INQUIRER he was not aware of any pending charges against him regarding the Yu case.

But he added that he welcomes such lawsuit so he could clear his name.

Go also said he was "only trying to help a friend" and claimed he didn't break any law by doing so.

Cayetano said his committee and the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, then chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers, had already recommended the filing of obstruction of justice cases against Demetria with the Office of the Ombudsman and against Go with the DOJ.

In the eight-page report signed by seven senators, the two committees recommended that Demetria and Go be investigated for trying to pressure DOJ officials "to go slow" on Yu's case.

"The presence of conspiracy to induce or influence a public official was clearly established," the report said.

Demetria and Go had allegedly asked Formaran "to go slow" on the Yu case after the prosecutor filed a motion to inhibit against Muro who was apparently favoring the Filipino-Chinese drug queen in a pending drug case.

"Now that all the other characters in this case have been judiciously dealt with, what has happened to that obstruction of justice case against Go?" Cayetano asked.

'Mayors conspired . . .

(From page A25)

Operators of incinerators or landfills receive the fee for every ton of garbage collected for them by the local government, he said.

"It's obvious that local officials usually receive kickbacks from tipping fees," Hernandez added. "The mayors should really stop thinking about business and start thinking about the environment."

Mayor Atienza on Tuesday claimed local governments could make use of incinerators since the Clean Air Act, which bars the burning of waste, has not yet been implemented.

Atienza and other mayors are also courting lawmakers to amend the Act.

Greenpeace said local officials should first make the law work before pushing for its amendment. It also said lawmakers are to blame for the non-implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Management Act, since they allegedly failed to make appropriations for them.

In Valenzuela, Mayor Bobbit Carlos yesterday called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to take action against operators of an open dumpsite in Meycauayan, Bulacan which has reportedly been emitting hazardous fumes.

Residents living near the dumpsite at the boundary of Barangay Veinte Reales, Valenzuela and Barangay Kaingin in Meycauayan have been complaining of respiratory and other health problems due to the alleged burning of waste materials at the dump.

Carlos, a physician by profession, visited residents of Veinte Reales the other day and saw for himself hazardous gas coming from the dumpsite.

"This problem needs to be addressed immediately," Carlos said. "The health of the residents is at stake and we need to be united in solving the problem."

He said the local government of Valenzuela has already extended assistance to the Meycauayan government by sending fire trucks to stop the burning of garbage at the dump.

Carlos' assistant, lawyer Nestor Nicolas, said in a phone interview that the Valenzuela government has written the DENR twice.

"But so far, no action has been taken," Nicolas said.

He said the local government also tried to initiate talks with the Meycauayan government to put an end to the problem.

Veinte Reales residents have been prodding local government to act on the worsening air pollution caused by the open dumpsite.

Nicolas admitted the local government had received complaints as early as last year, but it was only in the past weeks that the problem worsened.

He said that in two weeks, more and more residents have started to complain of asthma attacks, shortness of breath and restlessness.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 15, 2001
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wis 7:22—8:1
Gospel: Lk 17:20-25

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered, "The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe and say of it: 'Look, here it is! There it is!' See, the kingdom of God is among you."

And Jesus said to his disciples, "The time is at hand when you will long to see one of the glorious days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Then people will tell you: 'Look there! Look here!' Do not go, do not follow them. As lightning flashes from one end of the sky to the other, so will it be with the Son of Man. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this people."

Commentary

To the question of the pious Pharisees about the coming of the kingdom, Jesus answers that its coming cannot be perceived externally. The kingdom is Jesus and his word. Its coming is experienced as a new life which the heart alone knows. The Jewish teachers explain that some signs will accompany the coming of the kingdom. There will be complete peace—a return to the Garden of Eden, harmony with others and abundance in creation. It is a peace with God, with others, and with creation. For us Christians, Jesus is our peace, that is, he is the Giver of peace. His peace is the sign: Then turning to his disciples Jesus says the kingdom does not come by observation, nor by desiring, but by surprise.

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South Border goes beyond boundaries

By Fred Samantela

SONY MUSIC only signs on stars. And South Border surely makes the cut.

It has been three years since South Border wrapped up their last album. By industry standards, three years is too long a wait. And band leader Jay Durias agrees, but adds, "we wanted to have growth with our music."

Now any record producer would be in a fix if an artist comes up with a reason like that. What if the inspiration doesn't come? Consider, too, the fact that their third album was a live recording of their Araneta Coliseum concert.

So a "real" album (studio recording and original compositions) was badly needed.

All the members of the band—Paul Benitez (drummer), Rick Junasa (saxophone), Tata Balane (bassist) and Butch Victoriano (guitarist)—agreed to this.

Then they told me there were other factors that had caused the delay. They ticked off the reasons one by one. They were busy with concerts and gigs, which is a valid reason. But the record company still has to make money off its stars.

Then, Jay narrates, they wanted vocalist Luke Mejares to be more "exposed" to the South Border sound and learn its subtleties before they could record. Which is exactly what happened.

They brought in Mejares, who used to be part of a popular band in Cebu, to replace Brix Ferraris.

Ultra concert

Today, Mejares has completely adjusted to the band and performs with confidence. His voice and the talents and charisma of the other South Border members have won for them a huge following.

But are there enough South Border fans out there to fill up the 35,000-seat PSC track and field oval (Ultra) in Pasig?

The South Border members have reason to be anxious. They are set to perform in the concert "The Way We Do" at the Ultra on Nov. 30.

At the press conference in Hard Rock Café in Makati, the boys in the band were at first tense and subdued.

But when they started to perform, anxiety gave way to ease and soon they were so relaxed they stepped up their performance level, going wild with their still unreleased songs.

People were up on their feet, dancing or swaying to the beat. That is, all but a "jaded" few, which included Tato Malay, their boss.

Maturity and pain

These days, Jay doesn't see himself writing songs just for anyone. He knows how much sought-after his compositions are. He has done songs, for instance, for Jaya and the Freestyle band.

In Freestyle's first effort, Jay practically stamped his imprimatur on their album—writing a song for them and throwing in his support.

Now Jay wants to focus on South Border and cut down on work outside the band.

Would he still write for, say, Freestyle?

"No, they have their own sound now," Jay said of the other band. "And this (new) album now showcases our maturity as writers and players. Our music has matured . . . and the pain."

Pain from what?

"Pain as a result of my sad experience in jail and pain in general," he said.

He was referring to that traumatic episode in his life when he was detained in the NBI jail last year. But all that is behind him now, he claimed.

The South Border album reportedly will be marketed soon by Sony throughout Asia and the band members hope the marketing starts early next year.

Jay is pleased because the record producers have given the band full artistic control over the album.

Standouts

Midway in the interview, one of their managers, Sharon Inductivo, joined us. She, too, worked as a lyricist in some of the songs in the album.

The first three songs in the album immediately stood out. There is the carrier single, "The Way You Do," composed by Jay, Sharon and Rainer Diazz. Jay and Sharon collaborated on many of the songs, with Sharon as lyricist.

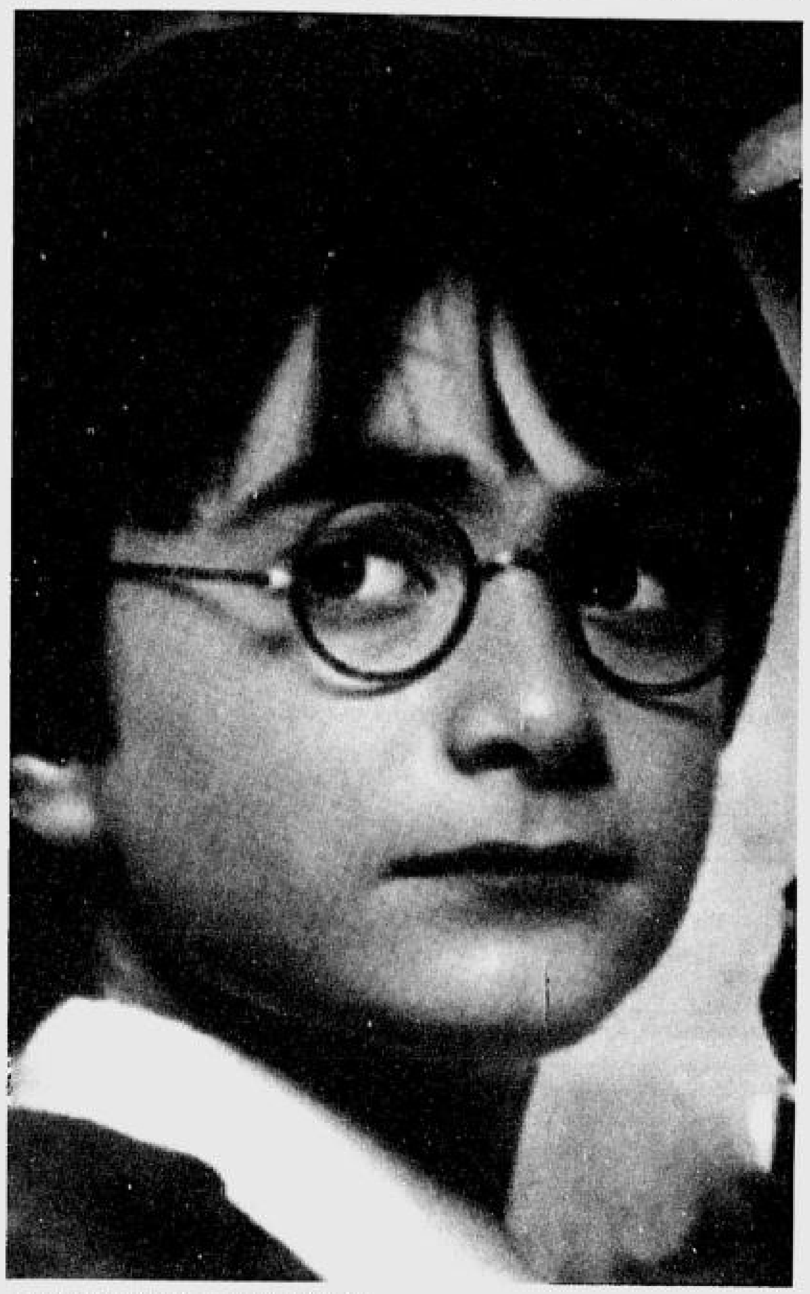
Then there is "7 Years," a potential single which is a beautiful, hauntingly mellow R&B love song.

The third song, "Habang Atin ang Gabi," is the theme from the Chito Roño movie "La Vida Rosa" which starred Rosanna Roces and Diether Ocampo. Jay worked with Armando Lao on this song.

The euphoria continues with "All I Want is You Today," a touching pop/love song with a jazz arrangement on the saxophone.

And then there's "Looking Glass," styled as a late '60s retro rock which seemed like a throwback to The Beatles.

RIGHT DIRECTION. South Border performs in a Nov. 30 concert at the 35,000-seat Ultra.


DANIEL Radcliffe as Harry Potter

We, too, have . . .

(From page A32)

such flavors as booger (we haven't had the pleasure of eating the genuine stuff so we couldn't exclaim, "It really tastes like boogers!"), grass (we have to admit we've eaten grass—accidentally or intentionally, we don't remember—back in our grade school days in Bued, Calasiao, Pangasinan, so we can testify that the grass flavor is authentic) and sardine.

The label promised more delicious flavors to come in spring (and we kid you not): vomit, dirt and one that's simply going to be named "???." There was no mention of earwax flavor which was mentioned in the book and film.

Young critics

But we digress. What did we think of the movie adaptation of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's beloved book? We figured we'd let our young companions give the verdict this time. After all, this movie is aimed primarily at these juvenile Muggles who read all four phenomenally selling Harry Potter books not merely for the sake of churning out book reports.

Let's get this out of the way. In the comments that they wrote after the screening (imagine a sea of kids all wearing Harry's glasses), all six budding critics were unanimous in raving about the scene where Harry's Gryffindors played Quidditch against the Slytherins. Think of quidditch as basketball, soccer and rugby except for one minor difference. It's played in the air. On broomsticks.

Andrew, 10, our first critic, wrote, "What I like best about 'Harry Potter' is that it is funny, has really neat effects and is very exciting. The movie is even better than what I thought it would be. If you like the book, I assure you that you'll love the movie."

"Neat effects." We're talking about million-dollar special effects here, from a giant three-headed dog named Fluffy to a baby fire-breathing dragon.

Real fantasy

Director Chris Columbus ("Home Alone," "Mrs. Doubtfire") said in a recent published interview, "A lot of people hear the word 'fantasy' and assume it's not real. We wanted to make this film as a realistic fantasy."

Based solely on this aim, Columbus succeeded because reviewer wannabe Nikki, 12, responded favorably precisely on this level: "The movie makes the story seem possible. When I read the book, Harry Potter's world can only seem to exist in an imaginary world. The movie made the characters seem more real. I like the movie a lot because it finally takes you into a world that we could only picture in our minds before.

"The special effects helped give the movie its magical moments although reading the book gave me those magical moments, too."

Not all the free soda and popcorn refills and booger-flavored beans can bribe Ella, 10, perhaps destined to succeed the late great critic Pauline Kael someday, into giving the movie a 10.

"On a scale of 1 to 10," she scribbled, "I give the movie an 8. "'Harry Potter' is good, not great. But still, it is a really good movie."

Tons of money

As for us, we predict that once the movie — written by Steve Kloves based on Rowling's book is shown — Warner Bros. Pictures will have tons of money to deposit at Gringotts (that' the wizards' bank, staffed by goblins).

Oh, by the way, the movie stars Daniel Radcliffe in the plum role of this decade, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint as Harry's best friends, Robbie Coltrane as Rubeus Hagrid, Dame Maggie Smith as Minerva McGonagall and Richard Harris as the 150-year-old Albus Dumbledore, respected headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. On our way back home, we crawled our way into the notoriously congested 405 Freeway. Oh how we wished we brought our broomstick instead.

To pass the time, we ate all the booger-flavored beans left in our pouch. Traffic was that bad.

How ill is Michael de Mesa?

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

GUESS who?

- This matinee idol confided in me that he is seriously contemplating marrying his girlfriend, who is not from show biz, early next year. I've met his fiancée and I must say that they do balance out each other. She has such a soothing effect on him that he has put an end to his Don Juan days. Even the most happy-go-lucky man would mellow when it's the heart he truly follows.
- This comedian is so affected by the serious romance of his beauty queen ex-girlfriend with an action star. The antidote to his broken heart (or is it just a bruised ego?): Bowling. The comedian is often spotted at a popular bowling lane with his girlfriend, who is also not from show biz, till the wee hours of the morning. Of course the girl is ecstatic about all the attention he is giving her. The comedian is said to be the type who would pamper his girls with lavish gifts. Hopefully she's not just another material girl whose love is good only until "supplies" last.
- This dramatic actress confirmed to me that she has indeed separated ways with her husband, also not from show biz. But here's the catch: They are not going to admit it publicly. For appearances' sake is the name of the game. Some leave without saying goodbye. In their case, it's goodbye without leaving.

Just asking

- Does **Mo Twister**'s resignation from "ASAP" and "Points of View" have anything to do with the abrupt decision of his girlfriend Janet Mcbride to go back to Australia to finish her studies? I've seen how intensely in love they are so I won't be surprised if Mo has intentions of relocating to Australia. Wags insinuate, though, that Janet might be pregnant. What else is new? That's the usual reaction of people when stars suddenly decide to pack their bags and leave the biz. Rumors are conceived even faster than a baby.
- How ill is **Michael de Mesa**? My heart goes out to him. I'll never forget the time he trusted me enough to open up for the very first time about his separation from **Gina Alajar**. An insider said she overheard him saying this could be his karma for leaving Gina. Sounds like the stuff that soap operas are made of. Who knows? Michael's illness could pave the way for Gina to take him back. After all, they have been through it all together. She might as well take care of him now in the way that only she can do.

A-Strings

TIRED of the same entertainment? Irritated by the same loud music? Check out A-Strings. This group will serenade you acoustically. It is made up of talented guitarists **Nino Alejandro**, **Leonard Deleos** and **Paolo Santos**. Catch them in their launch tonight at Friends St. Francis Square. Front act will be Ms **Adjeng Sarmiento**. I have heard them all perform and you better believe me when I say that A-Strings and Adjeng are really A-1.

Esprit launch

IT will definitely be a star-studded affair at Esprit's fragrance launch and fashion show at Rockwell, 6 p.m. tonight. Congrats to my best guy friend, **Richie-Coronel Santos**, the bright boy behind Esprit in the Philippines, for another tremendous event. Rich redefines fabulous in more ways than one.

Hunks in California

ALLOW me to give way to **Ida Mae Dougherty**, one of my readers from California, as she shares her thoughts about the recent show of the "ASAP" Hunks

(**Diether Ocampo**, **Jericho Rosales**, **Piolo Pascual**, **Carlos Agassi** and **Bernard Palanca**) in California. It's the next best thing to being there.

"When you drive by a theater in California and you see groups of girls dressed to impress in their best clothes from Gap and their most expensive Mac make-up, you come to one conclusion: There must be a boy band in town. On Nov. 3, Filipino girls of all ages gathered at the Henry J. Kaiser Arena in Oakland, California, to get their little taste of eye candy, Filipino style. You see, ASAP's Hunks came to town and made Pinay hearts all over the Bay Area beat with amazement.

"The group is no doubt the Philippines' answer to 'N Sync. They're goodlooking, have nice physiques, and, with the wink of an eye, they can make a girl swoon. These guys, however, probably aren't the most talented singers to hit mainstream. They can carry a tune, but carrying it well is another story.

"The five came out to a less than half full (but still enthusiastic) stadium, clad in black leather jackets, leather pants, and fitted shirts. Before the Hunks emerged, the audience was given a slide show of each entertainer, complete with baby pictures and their latest muscle-baring shots. It was a unique concept that brought the crowd to its feet, where they stayed for the rest of the night.

"As soon as the guys came out on stage, girls from all corners of the arena ran to the stage to try and at least touch the hand of one of the five guys that they had traveled to see.

"While neither of the five have a strong vocal range, they are adamant entertainers. They put on a great show, with no gimmicks, little flash, and pure entertainment, a lost art these days when performers tend to rely on pyrotechnics that draw attention away from the music.

"In between solos by the Hunks, the males in the audience were given a treat with Fe de los Reyes and Rosanna Roces. De los Reyes sang the hit song "It's Raining Men" and provided some comic relief, making fun of Filipino life in America. Roces brought the house down with her short skirt and backless top. She provided provocative comedy that was entertaining nonetheless.

"The star power of the Hunks was surprising. At a show where one would expect the majority of the audience to be teenagers, it wasn't rare to see mothers and grandmothers hovering around the stage, reaching for a touch of a Hunk with as much determination as any 17-year-old."

DE LAS ALAS

Ai-Ai set to conquer the Big Dome

IRONIC it may seem but behind the many faces of Comedy Concert Queen Ai-Ai de las Alas, is a woman tried and tested by time.

In her upcoming concert at the Araneta Coliseum, "Out of This World na Me, Araneta na Kasi," Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., Ai-Ai reveals herself as she dares to conquer the Big Dome.

A veteran in the major concert scene with her three consecutive sell-out concerts at the Folk Arts Theater—"Respect Me" in 1998, "Seduct Me" in 1999 and "Abuse Me" in 2000—Ai-Ai this time tries to explore her musicality as she does some "serious" singing in her Araneta concert.

Lending support to Ai-Ai is a powerhouse line up of guests which includes (in alphabetical order): Pops Fernandez, The Hunks, Patricia Javier, Jaya, The Manouevres, Monserrat Male Singers, Side A and the Whiplash Dancers.

Direction is by Floy Quintos and musical direction is by Beth Martin.

Tickets to the concert are priced at P1,575, P1,260, P840, P630, P315 and P158 and are now available at all SM Branches, Ticketnet Box Office (911-5555), Backroom Inc. (435-1120/435-3808/435-1108) and JLF Organization (634-7773 or 76). All ticket prices are inclusive of a 5 percent service charge.

"Out of This World na Me, Araneta na Kasi!" is a production of JLF Organization, Backroom, Inc. and JV JBRS Entertainment, Inc.

The concert is a benefit for the Golden Acres Home for the Aged and the Infirmed.

Special thanks to ABS-CBN, The New Kamameshi House, Arielle Agasang, Raymund Isaac, Tapa King, Tokyo Tokyo, Douglas Nierras Powerdance Studio, Flowerline, Khumbmela, Aqua Soft Purified Drinking Water, Thai-In-A-Box and Pizza Hut.

Official concert stations are 93.9 KCFM, Angel Radyo 1026, 105.1 Crossover, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Campus Radio 97.1 dwLS-FM, 101.1 Yes-FM and 90.7 Love Radio.

Co-presentors are 1237-00 Bayan Kollect sa America at Canada and the Manila Bulletin.

Dawn is back because 'The Price is Right'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SHE has been in "semi-retirement" from show biz and based in Davao City after she tied the knot with businessman **Anton Lagdameo** four years ago. Now **Dawn Zulueta** is back to host ABC 5's version of the popular game show "The Price is Right," one of the growing number of game shows on Philippine television.

Starting Nov. 25, Dawn will be hosting "The Price is Right" every Sunday starting at 7 p.m.

Dawn is not really back full-time. She previously turned down other TV offers because she wanted to concentrate on her family. Movie offers will also have to wait.

"I accepted this hosting job because I know it would not really take so much of my time," Dawn says. "I am required to be in Manila only two days a week to prepare and tape for the show. The rest of the week I can still spend in Davao with my husband."

Since she became Mrs. Anton Lagdameo, Dawn has been living a private life, away from show biz and its intrigues. She agreed to host "The Price is Right" because the show has a non-show biz format.

She admits to being a regular viewer of "The Price is Right" when she was younger.

"I grew up watching that show," she says. "Every Sunday night, my family and I would gather in front of the TV and we would all watch the game show. We were always excited because of the big prizes that were being given away."

Dawn became a popular choice to host "The Price is Right" after ABC 5 management saw her in a guest appearance on "Eezy Dancing" a few months back.

To formally welcome Dawn to the network, ABC 5 will air an exclusive, one-on-one interview with her at 8 tonight. **Amelyn Veloso**, who anchors ABC 5's primetime newscast "The Big News," will interview Dawn and allow her to talk about her love, life, career and four-year hiatus from the business.

"Hosting a game show is something I've never done before, so it's also a new challenge for me," Dawn says. "I can't wait to hear myself saying **Bob Barker**'s popular line on the show, 'Come on down!' That sounds exciting."

"The Price is Right" is one of the three game show franchises secured by ABC 5. **Ogie Alcasid** will host "Family Feud" and **Rustom Padilla** will help contestants solve word puzzles in "Wheel of Fortune," with **Victoria London** as his **Vanna White**.

No second thoughts

RUSTOM Padilla is also excited about hosting a game show.

"I really wanted to go back to hosting and it was among my career plans," Rustom discloses. "Imagine, I would be seen on nationwide TV from Monday to Saturday. And what could be more exciting than giving away big cash prizes to contestants? Once a month, we will also give away a brand new car."

As part of his briefing for the show, Rustom met with the Malaysian franchise holders of "Wheel of Fortune." In Malaysia, the program is ahead of the ratings than that country's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

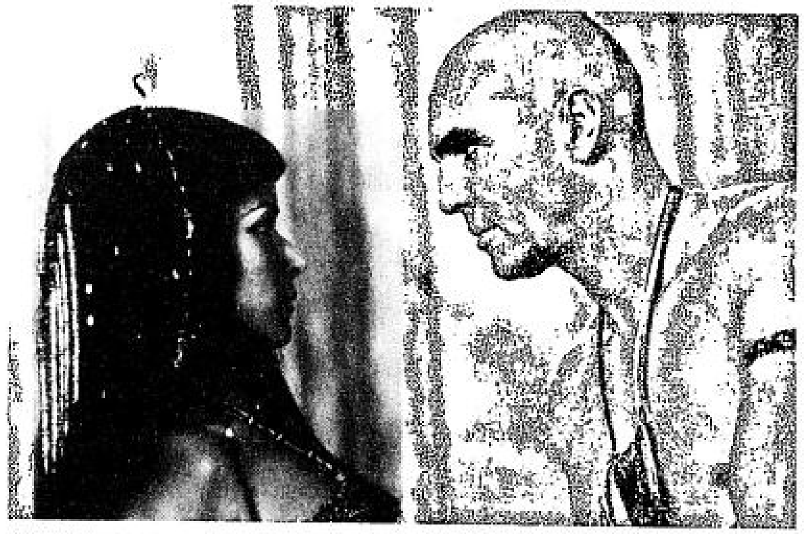
"They told me what my responsibilities are in hosting a game show," Rustom says. "Then we had a test broadcast. They observed how I would do it. At the end of the show, they said, 'You're so good, you're better than our host.' That was a real compliment."

Rustom appears to be on a roll again after being scarce on TV and the movies. Aside from hosting the game show, he is in the cast of "Yamashita," directed by **Chito Roño**. The movie is Regal's possible entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Rustom is also set to shoot a mystery-drama vehicle directed by **Lav Diaz.** Next year, he will star again with his brother **Robin Padilla** in another film project.

DAWN'S NEW DAY. Family is still her top priority.

"WHEEL of Fortune" host Rustom Padilla with his "Vanna White," Victoria London.



'THE MUMMY RETURNS' ON VIDEO

Magnavision releases the blockbuster flick, "The Mummy Returns," on video. Photo shows Patricia Velasquez with the powerful Imhotep (Arnold Vosloo). The film features a powerhouse cast led by Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz, with John Hannah. After Rick (Fraser) and Evelyn (Weisz) get married, they decided to settle in London and live a quiet life while raising their son Alex. But soon enough, they find their peaceful existence suddenly in tumult, when the corpse of Imhotep walks the earth once more as he seeks for immortality.

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THE ONE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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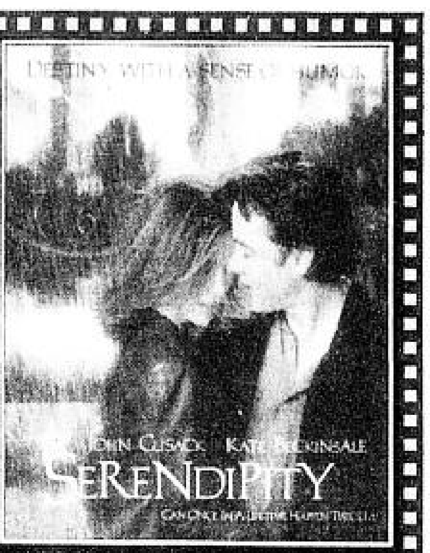

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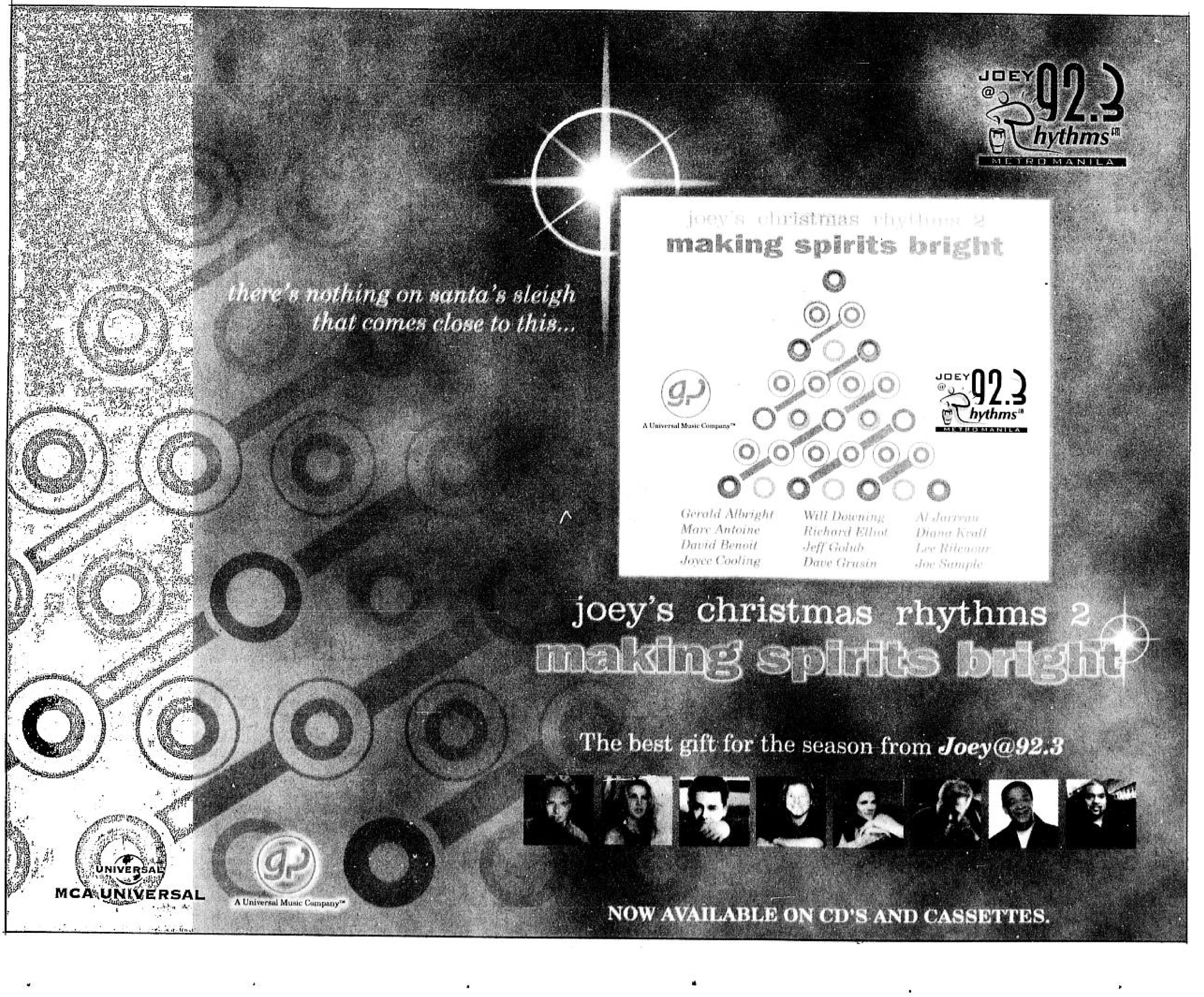
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NEXT Level. Dish out the classics, jazz, pop and dance hits. Standing from left are Joel Guarin, Janno Queyquep, Benjie Mendez, Bobby Velasco; seated from left are Mae Caragan, DJ Durano and Camille Patino.

SILK PERFORMS AT CONWAY'S

The gorgeous ladies of Silk deliver the hottest dance music Monday nights at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La, where the entertainment lineup is hot and huge this month. Tuesdays are de voted to chart-topping tunes care of ROB. Up and coming band Red Velvet plays favorite '80s hits on Wednesdays. Rock and roll fanatics are in for a treat on Thursdays as Spirit of '67 relives the music of Elvis Presley, Haley and The Comets and Beachboys. Fridays are highly charged with Marmalade and Big performing back-to-back. On Saturdays, Human Race faces the spotlight as they perform their specially arranged medleys from the '70s to the '90s. A special treat for the month is the limited engagement of Parliament Syndicate who'll be playing the best of R&B and acid jazz, Nov. 23. For inquiries, call 813-8888.

Busy schedule for Nxt Level

THEIR repertoire reflects their versatility as performers. They can perform anything from easy-listening tunes to wild party dance music. They can also dish out the classics, jazz, pop and dance hits from the '70s to the present.

Nxt Level is composed of DJ Durano, Camille Patino and Mae Caragan as front liners and Benjie Mender on drums, Bobby Velasco on keyboards, Janno Queyquep on lead guitar and Joel Guann on bass guitar.

Their high energy, hyperactive dancing and audience rapport is guaranteed to take them to the Nxt Level as first-rate performers.

This month, the band takes center stage Mondays at Ratsky Malate; Wednesdays at Hard Rock Cafe; Thursdays at Cassaluna Malate and Fridays at Stix Makati.

They also performed last Nov. 3 and 10 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

For details, call Caz of Real Talent at 897-9751 or 890-8049, fax no. 897-3367.

Action flicks on video

PREPARE to meet a new breed of men who will risk their lives to fight against terrorism in any part of the globe. Experience their daring exploits in the action package of original videos released by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

In "Surface to Air," an Iraqi colonel with servant members of the military regime jaded with all the losing war efforts Saddam Hussein has led them over the years, decide to take control of the situation by executing a coup d' etat. Stars Michael Madsen and Chad McQueen.

"Terminal Rush" stars Don "The Dragon" Wilson as an ex-army ranger who, with his fellow convicts Smitty and Blake, are framed by the corrupt officials in the government for crimes they didn't commit.

For details, call C-Interactive at 245-5011-12.

Added into the package is the Lito Lapid starrer, "Labrador," under Regal Home Video.

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9	TRIP
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2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
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5	WEYT A MINIT
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9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
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12	DOS EKIS

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3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	THE ONE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
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2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4	WEYT A MINIT
5	KING OF GLADIATORS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
9	THE ONE
10	JOY RIDE

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820595

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP

SM CEBU
2313876

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	THE BODY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	TRAINING DAY

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	THE BODY
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	TRIP
6	TRAINING DAY
7	CLOSED
8	HIYAS

SM PAMPANGA
7126015

1	THE ONE
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	TRIP
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	WEYT A MINIT

SM SUCAT
8294575

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	ANO BANG MERON KA?	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEYT A MINIT KAPENG MAINIT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRIP	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE ONE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	KING OF THE GLADIATOR	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SERENDIPITY	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	DON'T SAY A WORD	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 18 - 3 PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SERENDIPITY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JOY RIDE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE ONE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2 (SDDS)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 GOLD (DTS)	JOY RIDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	JOY RIDE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	TRIP

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
5	KING OF GLADIATORS

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	TRIP
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	JOY RIDE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	TRIP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RESERVE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4	THE ONE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TRIP
5	BUBBLE BOY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8 (SDDS)	THE ONE
9 (DOLBY)	JOY RIDE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4 (SDDS)	JOY RIDE
5	WEYT A MINIT
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	DOS EKIS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE
6	WEYT A MINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
8	TRIP

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANO BANG MERON KA ?
Lords	MEDUSA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	JOY RIDE
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TRIP
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	TRIP

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5	THE ONE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DOS EKIS
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	AMERICAN PIE 2

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	TRIP
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	TRAINING DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

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THX	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	JOY RIDE
3	KING OF GLADIATORS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	THE ONE
7	BUBBLE BOY
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	JEEPERS CREEPERS
10	TRIP

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S

NOVALICHES
935-3229 To 31

1	JOY RIDE
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	SERENDIPITY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	TRIP

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	TRIP
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	JOY RIDE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0463

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	MR. NICE GUY
5	EXTREME FORCE
6	TRIP

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX DTS SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KISS OF THE DRAGON / SPOT

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-2	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-6	SERENDIPITY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

USHER Raymond

New Usher album

WITH the same drive and energy that has propelled him to the upper rank of today's young performers, Usher Raymond is taking it to the next phase with "8701," his fourth and undoubtedly most expressive album that features an exceptional vocal performance and the No. 1 hit single, "U Remind Me."

"8701" is a real fusion of hip-hop flavored-pop and edgy R&B that reflects a new level of creativity and growth for Usher.

Working with well-known hitmakers Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, The Neptunes, Jermaine Dupri, Shekespere, Babyface and new producers Edmund "Eddie Hustle" Clement and Mike City, Usher has come up with a record full of "songs that we all can relate to."

"8701" also shows the maturity and confidence the 22-year-old singer gained from the success of his last album (1997's "My Way," which includes the worldwide smash hit single, "You Make Me Wanna").

Usher was more involved in the song writing, conceptualization and production of the album.

"Last time, I was trying to figure out what my audience liked in my music," he says. "Now, I think we have a record which has songs that everyone can listen to."

"U Got It Bad," the second single from the album, is a slow jam reminiscent of Usher's previous hit, "Nice and Slow."

"U Got It Bad" has already dominated the local airwaves and MTV, where Usher is in the Hot Seat for the Month of October.

Listen to RX 93.1 and Magic 89.9 and get a chance to win a copy of "8701."

Usher is already on his way to achieving his primary goal of being an all-around entertainer, using his multi-faceted talents and skills as a singer, songwriter, producer, dancer and actor.

"8701" released by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc., is available in CDs and cassettes at your favorite record outlets nationwide.

Glut . . .

(From page A31)

tions are from 4 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 25 at the Powerdance Studio at the sixth floor of Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. For details, call BPS Entertainment at 687-0990.

Focus on Dawn Zulueta

AT 8 p.m. today, ABC-5 telecasts **Amelyn Veloso**'s interview with **Dawn Zulueta**, who is about to revive her performing career in a limited way, by hosting the new game show, "The Price Is Right." Dawn and Amelyn will talk about love, life, career, Dawn's hiatus from show biz, and how she is now.

Glut of game shows

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS if we didn't have more than enough game and quiz shows on the tube, Channel 5 is unveiling three new ones on Nov. 19, starting at 7:30 p.m. Like "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire" and "The Weakest Link," these are focalized versions of tested programs—"Wheel of Fortune," "Family Feud" and "The Price Is Right." So much for creativity . . .

But the bottom line here is viewership, so the fact that the three new shows are "franchise" programs with "brand name" recognition and drawing power is expected to boost their potential to generate high enough ratings to worry the zillion other game and quiz shows now being telecast on other TV channels.

Other potential plus points are the new shows' gamemasters—**Dawn Zulueta**, **Ogie Alcasid** and **Rustom Padilla**. It'll be a treat to see Dawn on the tube again, even if she won't be acting but will instead be playing the unfamiliar role of game show host.

It's been a long time since Dawn has been seen regularly on TV or movie screens, so people will naturally be curious to see how she's come along, and especially how she can fit into her new role as gamemaster.

Ogie can be expected to do well in his new role, but Rustom is the big question mark. Does he have it in him to be on top of things, both assertive and considerate to the contestants on his show? We hope so.

Solidarity Congress on Governance Reforms

AT 8:30 a.m. today, some cultural leaders and representatives of the TV-film world will be joining leaders from other sectors in a solidarity congress on Governance Reforms at the Shangri-La hotel in Makati.

The convenor is Dr. **Jesus P. Estanislao**, President of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia.

Why the Solidarity Congress? The ISA's National Solidarity Covenant provides its rationale: "Philippine Society is in transition from its traditional political culture to a genuine democratic culture. We seek to hasten that transition.

"Philippine society labors under the weight of illegal, unethical and immoral practices in government, business and civil society. We seek to end these practices.

"More than one out of three Filipinos are mined in poverty. We seek to eliminate poverty through honest and competent work.

"We are unfazed by the bleak picture many paint of the present. We trust in the creative energies of the human person. We trust in the common sense of the Filipino. We trust in the inherent power of goodness.

"We are ready to lead change, beginning with ourselves. We are ready to help others change, one by one. And we pledge to keep these commitments, while urging people to change—however long it may take."

Co-convenors of the congress are the Governance Advisory Council and the Presidential Committee on Effective Governance. Speakers include President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**, Dr. Estanislao and Executive Secretary **Alberto Romulo**.

The first Panel Session is on the Sectoral Initiatives and Challenges. The second is on Business at the Forefront of Good Corporate Governance.

There will also be a focus on The Youth: Vanguards of Good Governance, including the presentation of the results of the Third Apec Future leaders' Forum on Corporate Citizenship: Doing Well by Doing Good.

Impersonators wanted

PEOPLE who can impersonate celebrities and other public figures are invited to audition for "Illusione," a gay revue to be staged at Onstage in Feb. and March, 2002. Audi

GLUT/ A30

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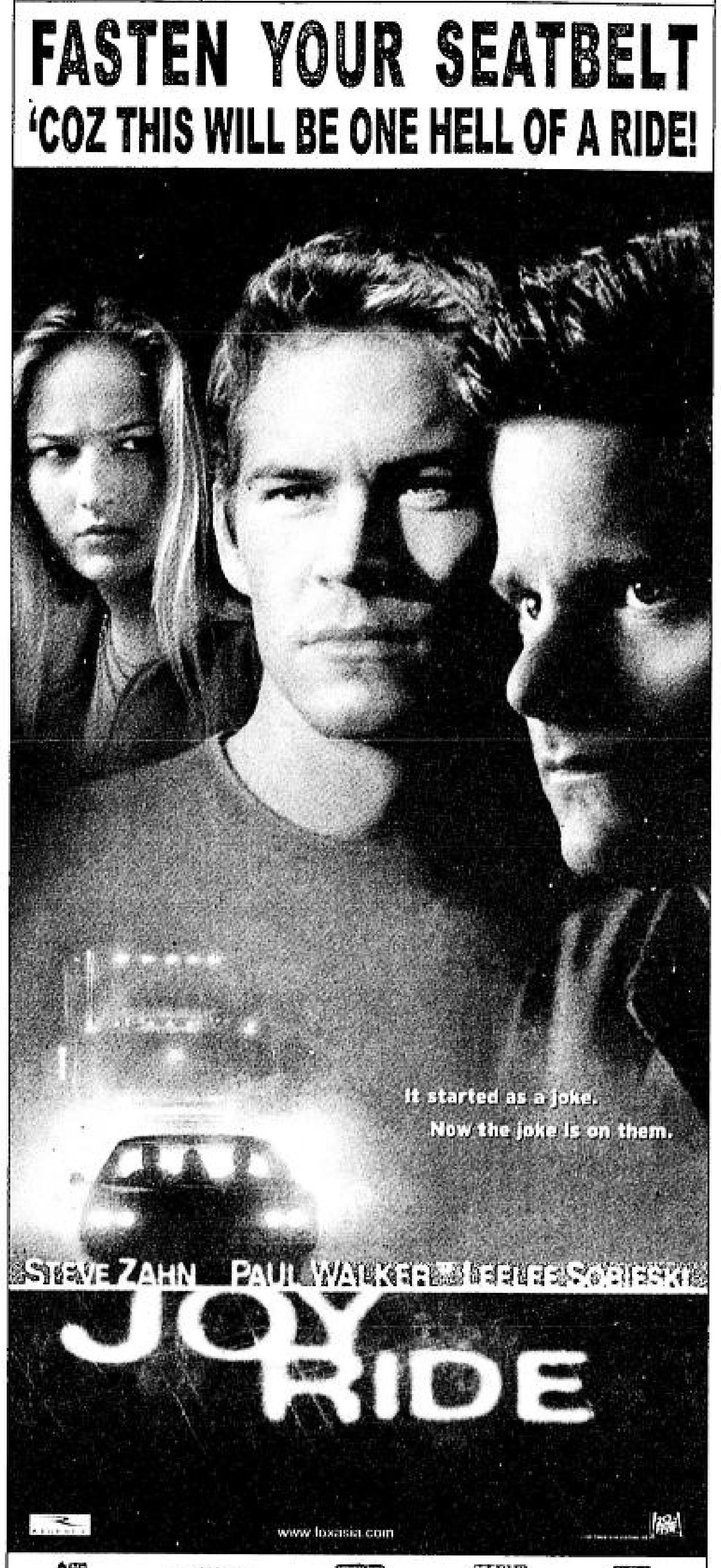
'COZ THIS WILL BE ONE HELL OF A RIDE!


It started as a joke.
Now the joke is on them.
STEVE ZAHN
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LEELEE SOBIESKI
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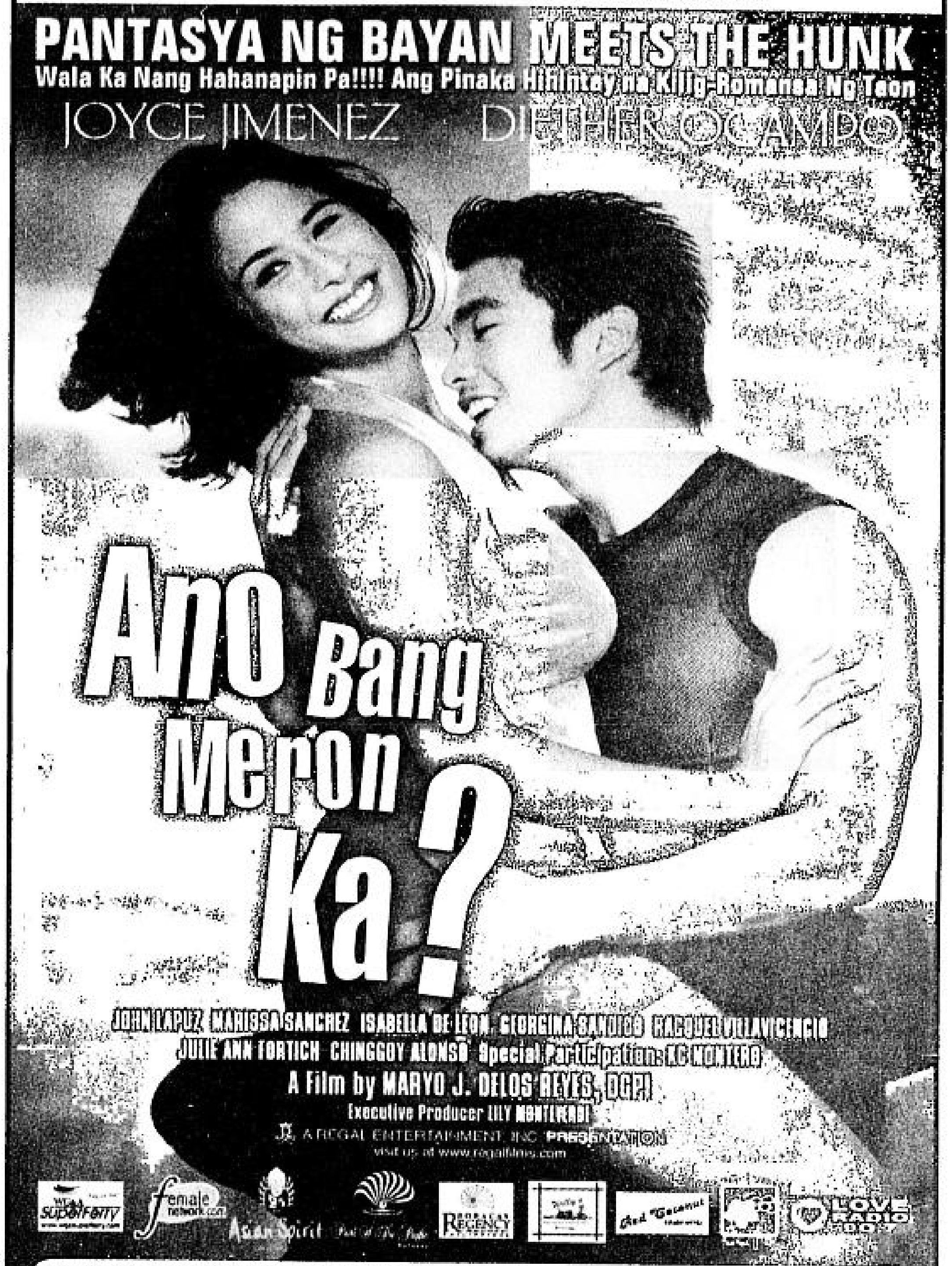
SM MANILA 10:30 - 12:00 PM GOTESCO RECTO 1:00 - 2:00 PM
ROBINSONS MALATE 2:30 - 4:00 PM METRO EAST ROBINSONS 5:30 - 7:00 PM SM MEGAMALL 7:30 PM
ROUTE 2 NOV. 18, 2001 SUNDAY
SM CENTERPOINT 11:00 - 1:00 PM EVER COMMONWEALTH 2:00 - 3:00 PM
SM NORTH EDSA 3:30 - 5:00 PM ROBINSONS GALLERIA 6:00 PM


PANTASYA NG BAYAN MEETS THE HUNK
Wala Ka Nang Hahanapin Pa!!!! Ang Pinaka Hihintay na Kilig-Romansa Ng Taon
JOYCE JIMENEZ
DIETHER OCAMPO
Ano Bang Meron Ka?
JOHN LAPUZ MARISSA SANCHEZ ISABELLA DE LEON GEORGINA SANDICO RACQUEL VILLAVICENCIO
JULIE ANN FORTICH CHINGGOY ALONSO Special Participation: KC MONTERO
A Film by MARYO J. DELOS REYES, OGPI
Executive Producer LILY MONTEVERDE
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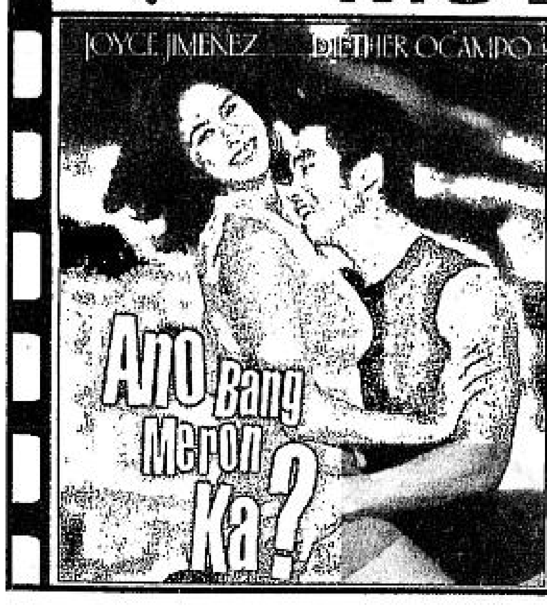
Join the fun and easy SMS game that will challenge your knowledge of trivia about Joyce, Diether and "Ano Bang Meron Ka?" To start, text ANO and send to 288 (for TALK N' TEXT with zed subscribers). Promo period: October 26 - November 26, 2001. For complete contest details, log on to www.femalenetwork.com/ano. Per DTI NCR Permit # 3610 Series of 2001.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD


JOYCE JIMENEZ
DIETHER OCAMPO
Ano Bang Meron Ka?

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Ano Bang Meron Ka?
November 16, 2001
@ Robinsons ERMITA &
November 18, 2001
@ Robinsons GALLERIA
Tickets are available @ Movieworld.
MTRCB RATING PG-13

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THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

NOW SHOWING

RELAX
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MOVIE

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PENELOPE CRUZ
JOHN HURT
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CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING NOVEL BY LOUIE DE BERNIERES

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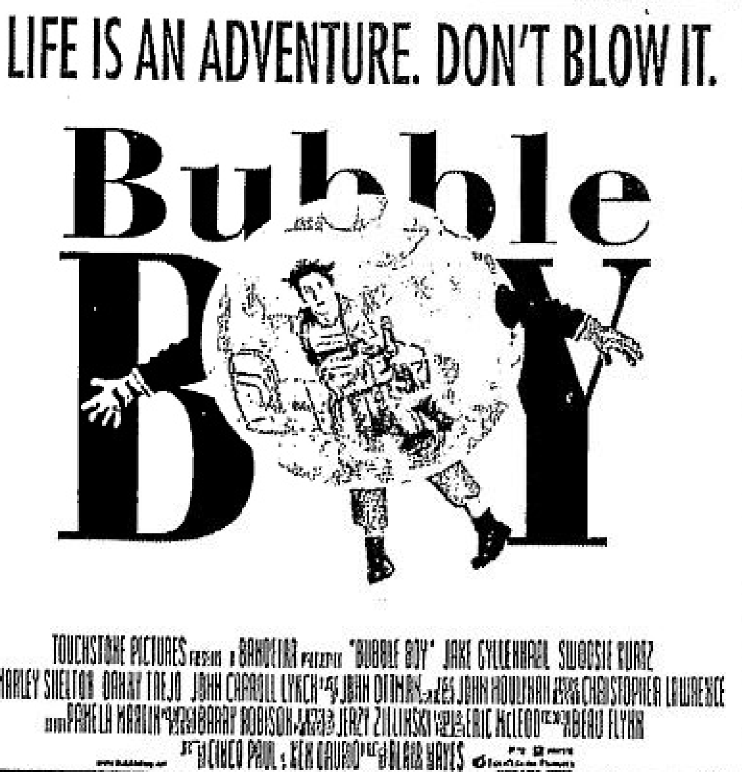
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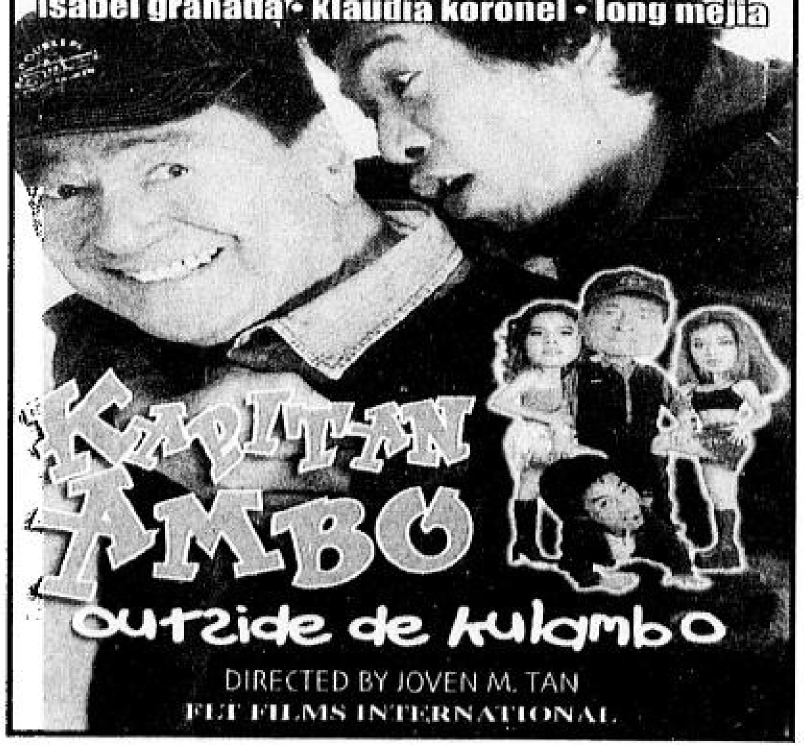
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE'

We, too, have seen it and it's good!

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—"Guests are reminded that broomsticks are not permitted in the auditorium," read the Warner Brothers Pictures invitation to the international press screening of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

The invitation offered two ways to RSVP: "by owl post or phone."

We opted for the latter method. We did not want to risk the ire of two preteen girls if they missed out on the chance to watch the most anticipated movie ahead of their friends. Even Steven Spielberg, when asked what movie he was looking forward to see this fall season, replied, "Harry Potter, Harry Potter, Harry Potter."

Time magazine was uncharacteristically breathless in its recent cover inset headline: "We've seen the movie!"

So we dutifully left the broomsticks at home and piled our girls and four select classmates (sworn to wizards' oath of secrecy not to tell other classmates—we wished we could bring everybody) into our trusty old van. Some kids already in line at this cineplex in Century City were dressed in black wizard robes.

At the lobby, they were giving away Harry Potter merchandise to the kids only—the boy wizard's glasses, removable tattoo (the famous lightning bolt scar) and Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans in small red pouches.

The grownups, too, got to receive these jellybeans. Thank goodness because we didn't want to be left out in savoring the wizard world's candy in

WE/ A25

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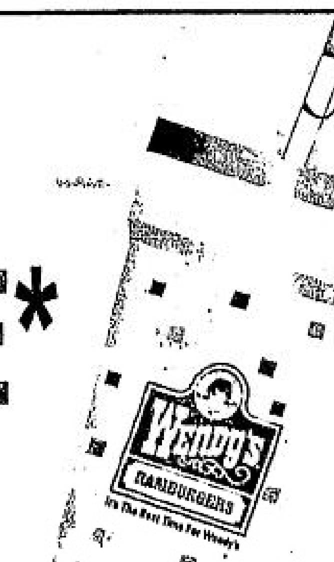

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2 groups join Ayala bid for Boni stake

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE GROUP of property developer Carlos Rufino and a foreign fund have tied up with Ayala Land Inc. in the latter's firm bid to acquire Metro Pacific Corp.'s interest in the development of Fort Bonifacio, a source involved in the transaction told the INQUIRER.

Meanwhile, Robinsons Land Corp., the real estate arm of the Gokongwei family, has submitted a non-binding expression of interest in MPC's stake, a top executive of the publicly listed company said in a separate interview.

High-level MPC executives and financial advisers were scheduled to present yesterday to parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. in Hong Kong three options for the disposal of the Philippine holding firm's 69.6-percent interest in Bonifacio Land Corp. In turn, BLC owns a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture with state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority that would oversee the development of 150 hectares of land straddling Makati and Taguig.

The Rufino group and the foreign fund would be ALI's partners in a holding company that the Ayala unit said the other day it might form to hold the investment in BLC shares if its offer were to be accepted. The offer is good only until Nov. 19.

ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ismael disclosed that the company made a binding offer Tuesday to acquire all the interests of MPC and First Pacific in BLC although the offer "is subject to the fulfillment of certain terms and conditions and the satisfactory completion of financial, technical and legal due-diligence audits to be conducted by ALI and its authorized representatives."

ALI was MPC's stiffest rival when the BCDA bid out the development rights to the Fort Bonifacio property in 1995. ALI lost out with a bid of roughly P24,000 per square meter against the MPC consortium's bid of P33,000.

The INQUIRER reported earlier this week that based on preliminary discussions, ALI had quoted a price of more than P20,000 per sq. m. for the BLC interest. Earlier, MPC rejected ALI's bid of P11,800 per sq. m. for the development rights to an 18.9-hectare portion of the Global City located in the Northern central business district.

Saddled with about P18 billion in debts, part of which will mature early next year, and with no sign of a recovery in the property market in sight for the next two years at least, MPC has decided to dispose of its BLC stake even at a loss, industry sources said.

The Salim family of Indonesia, which controls First Pacific, has already given the go-ahead for MPC to sell out of the Fort Bonifacio project. Once it unloads its stake in Fort Bonifacio, MPC will have only First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific, and high-rise developer Pacific Plaza Tower in its books.

MPC has tapped ING Barings as financial adviser on the disposal of the BLC stake.

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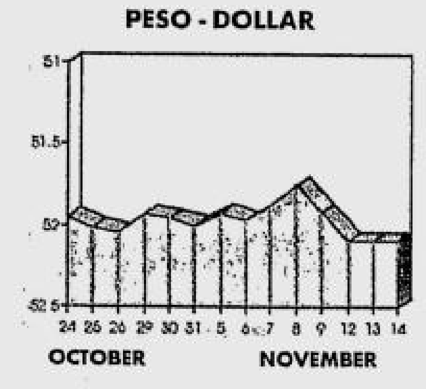

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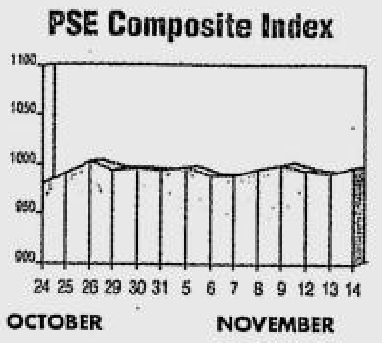


(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices rose 0.8 percent yesterday on gains by blue chips after a rise in Wall Street amid Kabul's capture by US-backed opposition forces, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 7.56 points to close at 997.52. The broader All Shares Index gained 7.99 points to 660.50 after losing 1.90 points to 652.51 Tuesday. Gainers beat losers 31 to 22, with 47 issues unchanged.

Volume turnover was higher at 252.33 million shares worth P481 million from Tuesday's 124 million shares worth P326.1 million.

The opposition forces' takeover of Kabul Tuesday had helped "raise hopes that the war in Afghanistan will end soon and normalcy can eventually return to the markets," said Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities.

But domestic concerns will continue to hound the market as soon as euphoria over the Northern Alliance success was over, other analysts said.

"It's too early to conclude that the war will soon be over," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

AFP, AP

Nestlé remains optimistic on ₱3-B investment

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

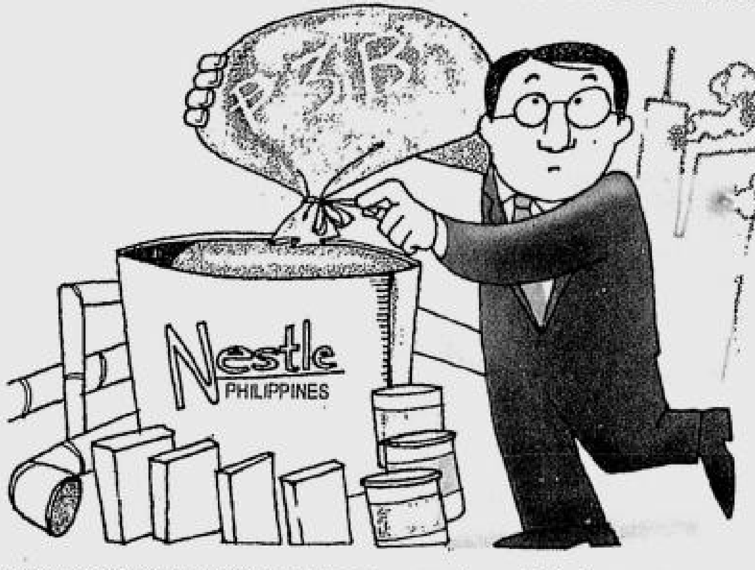
CONSUMER goods manufacturer Nestlé Philippines may have to rethink plans of investing about P3 billion to beef up its production capacity within the next two years due to the uncertainties from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

However, Nestlé Philippines chair and CEO Juan Santos told reporters yesterday there was so far no indication that the terrorist attacks could reduce opportunities in the consumer goods sector in the country. Still, he said the company would reconsider new investment spending in the light of recent developments.

"We're now in a crisis and we have to reevaluate these things. We're hoping that there won't be much impact and there's no indication that we'll shelve it, but we'll probably rethink about it and evaluate it more closely," Santos said.

The P3 billion in additional capital outlay for the next 18 to 24 months, programmed prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, was supposed to be used to expand production capacity as well as to implement new technology.

The new investments were intended to expand two factories—the Cabuyao facility, which is the biggest volume producer of infant nutrition products in the region today, and the Cagayan de Oro plant, which manufactures filled milk powder. These plants became the Nestlé Asean Supply Center for breakfast cereal products in 1991.



"We are continuing to expand. What has been rather successful in our operations is the designation of three of our factories to be Asean sources of infant nutrition and powdered milk," Santos said.

"We are now the center of Aséan production and have proven that we can be competitive as a low-cost producer. So in that context, we will continue to expand," he said.

The Nestlé executive said the funds could be generated internally

NESTLÉ/ B6

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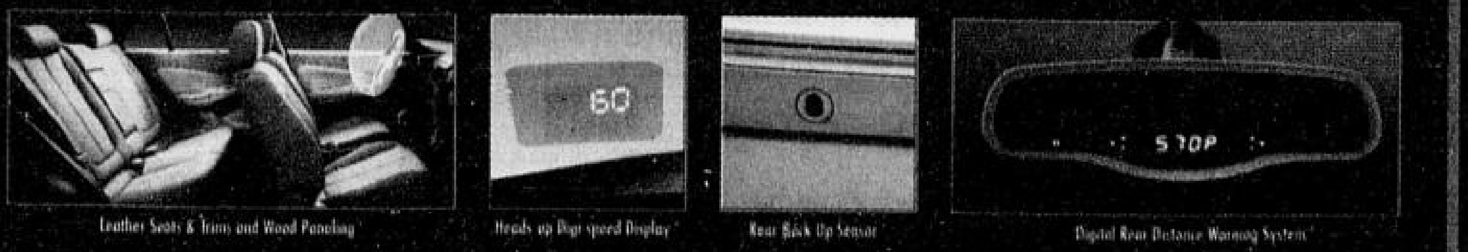

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FOR the first time ever, our government is helping a local industry. This calls for a celebration. Local business always thinks of the government as the enemy.

But it took Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas to prove that the government can also be on the side of business. Well, at least once in a while.

Last week, Roxas imposed additional tariff of P20 per bag on imported cement. He did it to protect the local cement companies against dumping.

And as I said, it was a watershed decision, because Roxas cast the safety net to the suffering cement industry under the so-called Safeguard Law.

Now, that is not a brand of legal soap, because it is actually an easier way for local industries to seek help from the government against unfair competition from imports.

Under another law, the so-called Anti-dumping Law, before the government can act on your complaint, you have to prove first that you are already dead.

* * *

SO Congress devised a faster way, which is through the Safeguard Law. It allows the Department of Trade and Industry to raise tariffs to protect local industries.

So can it be that, in doing that first, Roxas is trying to send a message to business? And that is, things have changed in the government under this cute administration? That henceforth, the government will not hesitate to help any local industry against dumping?

Well, it's hard to tell. Many others have been calling on the government to raise tariffs to fight dumping. Petrochemicals. Steel. Drugs. No, not that one. Erase.

Anyway, maybe the cement industry deserved what it got from Roxas because the industry fought hard for it. It was up against moneyed groups.

Importers bring cement into the country for as low as P52 per bag. They then sell the cement at around P137 per bag.

According to their PR line, the importers only do that, meaning, they make a killing, to protect the consumers. Thanks, boss, but we can manage without your help.

With their huge profits from importation, the importers could buy their way through the courts and even Congress. It was a tough fight for the local cement companies.

That's why I am saying that, maybe, just maybe, Roxas saw that the cement industry deserved help from the government. Others are not that lucky. Not yet.

* * *

ASIDE from the tariff increase, this cute administration is moving against the cement importers.

I heard the Bureau of Internal Revenue is going to revisit their financial statements. Some of them even had the nerve to report losses.

The Bureau of Customs is also investigating their entry documents. Certain consumer groups said cement importers under declared their shipments.

To think, the country hardly benefits from the importation. Well, perhaps except for that claim of importers that they are protecting consumers by making a killing.

The importers hardly invest in anything. They employ only around five persons on the average. They don't even help the real estate business. They hold office in toilets.

Sure, the government charges them value added tax, plus a 3-percent tariff, but that's it. All right, the importers make some judges and congressmen rich.

* * *

BUT even if some people get handsome fees for "services" rendered to the importers, I don't think it's enough for this cute administration to allow the cement industry to die.

The importation was killing the locals one by one. It already took away work for more than 4,000 people in the cement industry.

From a market share of virtually zero in 1998, imported cement today commands almost one-fourth of the whole market. It had to come to that!

I don't know if the government loved watching local industries suffer. I also don't know if the importers have a lineup of local industries to kill.

But the same guys who almost brought down the cement industry, already killed the National Steel Corp. They were the same guys who dumped Russian steel here.

After they do it in the cement industry, who knows, maybe they can lust next for the petrochemical industry. Next maybe the car industry. The possibilities are limitless.

* * *

IN a big way, when Mar Roxas did that first under the Safeguard Law, this cute administration must be telling business that enough is enough. It's about time, too!

These are hard times. It's not like the Asian crisis, which affected only the region. This time, we are looking at a worldwide recession. Everybody is going to be cranky.

That's why the government must try to close ranks with the private sector. I am not saying we should bar competition. I am just saying let it be a fair fight.

For instance, Roxas himself asked the local cement industry to reduce prices. The locals can actually do it now with the increase in tariff on imported cement.

Prior to the increase, if the locals dropped their prices, the importers could always drop theirs much lower, precisely because of the huge margin they enjoyed.

Thus, the locals could be drawn into a price war. Already losing heavily, they would only lose some more, until they eventually go bankrupt.

I understand that some companies promised to Roxas that they would cut prices soon, particularly those that still have good finances.

But like it or not, a lot of the cement companies will still be closed, considering the slump in construction today. Also, thanks to the bad guys called importers.

Chinese copper firm keen on Toledo mine reopening

SHENZHEN, China—China's Jiangxi Copper Co. has sent its engineers to the Philippines to study the feasibility of reopening the Toledo copper mine but has yet to make a decision on an investment there, a senior executive said on Tuesday.

The firm, which is the parent company of listed Jiangxi Copper Co. Ltd., is also looking at long-term investment in the rich copper reserves of western Xinjiang and Tibet.

"We have sent our engineers there but we have not made a final decision," Wu Yuneng, general manager of Jiangxi Copper Co., said on the sidelines of a China metals conference.

Atlas Consolidated Mining Corp. said last month it was in talks with Chinese, European and Japanese firms aimed at garnering investment or financing to rehabilitate the typhoon-ravaged Toledo copper mine in Cebu.

With the Chinese government's current emphasis on developing its hinterland and offering in some cases generous tax and other benefits, Jiangxi Copper was looking west as well.

"China has a wealth of natural resources in Xinjiang and Tibet, but these require a long investment period," Wu said.

New large copper resources had been identified at Yulong in Tibet and at Dongtianshan in Xinjiang.

Wu said he did not see any barriers to Jiangxi Copper, which is now under the jurisdiction of the Jiangxi provincial government, investing outside its home province.

"But these are not one to two year projects so for the next few years, it will be necessary to rely on imports," Wu said.

Jiangxi Copper owns and operates the Dexing mine from which it acquires about 70 percent of the concentrates its smelters uses.

The company's copper production is forecast to total 225,000 tons in 2001, of which about 130,000-140,000 tons would be used to produce refined copper cathode for the Jiangxi group.

China's copper consumption is forecast to rise yearly at a rate in line with economic growth, Wu told the metals conference.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) had grown at a yearly rate of 8.0 percent over the past five years. The yearly average growth rate of China's copper consumption is about 9.0 percent, approximately keeping step with GDP growth, he said.

If China maintains an economic growth rate of 7-8 percent, domestic copper consumption would rise by 400,000 tons to 2 million tons by 2005, Wu said.

While in the near term, additional supplies of domestic concentrates would be difficult to find, there would continue to be a surplus of copper concentrates in the global market in the coming five years, Wu said. *Reuters*

SM posts 10% profit increase

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's largest shopping mall chain, posted a net income of P2.6 billion for the nine months ending Sept. 31, 2001. This translates to an increase of 10 percent from last year's P2.36 billion.

The company's revenues grew by 17 percent to P5.165 billion from last year's P4.4 billion. Rental revenues increased by 18 percent to P4.08 billion from the previous year's P3.46 billion.

Income from operations grew to P3.12 billion from last year's P2.76 billion or an increase of 13 percent. The financial condition of the company remains strong with a cash balance of P9.4 billion. Current ratio remains at a healthy level of 5 times to 1. Total assets increased to P38.3 billion from P35.6 billion last year.

In April this year, the company opened its 11th mall, the 57,000-square-meter SM Sucat-Supercenter in Parañaque to a highly receptive market. By opening day, 90 percent of the mall space had been lease-awarded and 80 percent was occupied and operating. SM Sucat-Supercenter brings SM Prime's total mall space to 1.64 million square meters.

SM Prime is opening its 12th mall, SM City-Davao this Saturday, Nov.17. SM City Davao, a 76,000-sq.m., three level mall, is expected to bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to Davao City. It is the company's first mall in Mindanao.

JG Summit income up 42.3% in nine months

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc., the publicly listed holding company of the Gokongwei family, posted a 42.3-percent jump in net income in the first nine months of the year to P2.28 billion from the P1.6 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The company attributed the growth in profit despite increases in the costs of goods and other expenses to higher revenues from all its major businesses—food, real estate and hotels, textile, petrochemical, electronics, telecommunications and air transportation.

Consolidated revenue rose 30.38 percent to P31.28 billion in the first nine months from P23.99 billion in the same period last year, primarily on the impressive earnings registered by Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Digitel posted a 33.3-percent increase in consolidated operating revenue to P4.621 billion although net income reached only P4 million, slightly up from last year's P3.4 million last year.

The foods business, through Universal Robina Corp., reported a 17.4-percent increase in net sales to P13.6 billion on the back of the strong performance of the company's branded consumer foods, including operations in Southeast Asia and China. The net income of URC rose by 21.3 percent to P782 million.

Robinsons Land Corp. saw its gross revenue rise 10 percent to 2.52 billion while net income grew 15.48 percent to P735 million.

Cebu Air Inc., which will start flights to Hong Kong later this month, contributed P2.7 billion in total revenue while electronics accounted for P566.3 million.

Notably, JG Summit's revenue from interest, investments and other incomes climbed 45.75 percent to P2.41 billion from P1.65 billion because of larger money market placements, higher yields and the positive impact of the depreciation of the currency on peso-denominated investments.

Its net operating income rose 33.3 percent to P2.88 billion.

Equitable PCI nets ₱113.7M in 3 quarters

EQUITABLE PCI Bank said its income in the first nine months ending September reached P113.7 million.

At the same time, the bank reported that it has prepaid the bulk of its P30-billion loan with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In the first nine-month period, Equitable PCI Bank focused its efforts on making regular advance payments to the BSP. Of the P30-billion liquidity facility extended to Equitable PCI last year, the bank already paid 70 percent or P21 billion.

The bank is planning to pay the BSP another P3 billion this week, to bring its total payment to P24 billion or 80 percent of its BSP loan.

BSP Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura commended the bank for its efforts to significantly reduce its loan within a very short period of time.

"Equitable PCI Bank's ability to considerably pay off its BSP loan affirms that it has not only regained its customers' confidence but widened its client base as well," he said. The bank expects to make the final payments on its BSP loan by the first quarter of next year at the latest, after which it will focus on its steady growth and long-term profitability.

DISCLOSURES

CROWN Equities Inc. announced the election of Sergio Naranjilla and Gabriel Tong as directors, replacing resigned directors Fides Cordero-Tan and Julita Valeros.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Filinvest Development Corp.** were Andrew Gotianun Sr., chair and CEO; Mercedes Gotianun, vice chair; Josephine Yap, president and COO; Efren Gutierrez, executive vice president; Efren Reyes, treasurer; Dante Ramos, corporate secretary; and Barbara Aleli Briones, Helena Tolentino and Abner Gener, assistant corporate secretaries.

* * *

ELECTED to **Filinvest Land Inc.**'s executive committee were Mercedes Gotianun, Andrew Gotianun Sr., Joseph Yap, Josephine Yap, Andrew Gotianun Jr., Efren Gutierrez, Efren Reyes and Dante Ramos.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price from P0.10 to P0.06 per share.

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro bought 50,000 of its shares at P0.81 per share. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, November 14, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	44	43.5	44	484,100
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17	17	16.75	16.75	45,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	161	162	160	161	171,000
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47.5	470,500
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	16	16	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1355	1350	1355	3,890
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1075	1085	1075	1085	1,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24.25	24	24.25	7,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	130,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	565	570	560	570	46,850
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	3,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	370	382.5	370	382.5	119,060
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	21,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.75	20.75	20	20	62,500
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	27.5	24.25	25.5	2,010,500
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,525,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	2,150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.32	1.38	1.3	1.38	5,996,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	2,580,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	13,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	11,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	200,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	109,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23	23.5	23	23.5	1,000
RFM Corp.	1.88	1.92	1.88	1.9	47,364,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40	244,500
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	51	51	656,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Ayala Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	3,016,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	101,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	1,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	310,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	50,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.5	0.45	0.46	4,750,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.09	0.09	1,100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.08	2,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.75	21.75	20.75	21	633,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	12,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.17	0.22	0.17	0.195	5,900,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	70,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,650,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	154,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	284,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	520	520	520	520	50
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	405	405	405	405	114,500
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	23,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	5,266,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	1,450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	4,059,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	2,354,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	76,100,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,030,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	550,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.014	6,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,301,450	78,496,875.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	136,321,360	366,837,400.00
PRO	13,709,000	40,571,430.00
Mining	79,500,000	1,789,300.00
OIL	21,700,000	190,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	252,531,810	487,885,205.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	393.10	UP 2.02
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,417.61	UP 11.23
PRO	426.78	UP 2.99
Mining	935.91	DOWN 1.80
OIL	1.17	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	660.50	UP 7.99
Composite	997.52	UP 7.56

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 22; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 1,926

CURRENCIES

Nov. 14, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134945	1.000000	52.0860
Japan	Yen	0.009332	0.008222	0.4283
United Kingdom	Pound	1.636023	1.441500	75.0820
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145693	0.128370	6.6863
Switzerland	Franc	0.679363	0.598587	31.1780
Canada	Dollar	0.712234	0.627549	32.6865
Singapore	Dollar	0.621717	0.547795	28.5325
Australia	Dollar	0.591733	0.521376	27.1564
Bahrain	Dinar	3.010624	2.652661	138.1665
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302652	0.266667	13.8896
Brunei	Dollar	0.621377	0.547495	28.5168
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000094	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025591	0.022548	1.1744
UAE	Dirham	0.309081	0.272331	14.1846
Korea	Won	0.000888	0.000782	0.0407
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881100	45.8930
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450499	23.4647
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134323	6.9963
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.399826	20.8253
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064032	3.3352
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021842	1.1377
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.148190	7.7186
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004395	0.2289
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005296	0.2758
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021842	1.1377
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.118766	58.2720

Congratulations!
PRU LIFE U.K. Top Performers

5th Anniversary 5 Drive

Top 5 Winners

Jose Jeff Damayo
Blue Pearl

Jeremy Tan
China Jade

Artemio Wapanio
Blue Pearl

Ma. Lourdes Yap
Blue Pearl

Severiano Co
Blue Pearl

Level 3

Marie Dakay
Blue Pearl

Gilbert Chua
Blue Pearl

Matea Bitong
Diamond

Wilma Tenedero
Garnet

Arceli Tan
Tektite

Ma. Carmen Aypa
Ruby

Stella Gonzalez
Crystal

Lorna Reyes
Diamond

Ma. Cristina Suarez
Blue Pearl

Raul Roldan
Gold

Gwendolyn Pardo
Blue Pearl

Katherine Yap
Blue Pearl

Cornelio Pahang
Blue Pearl

Jacqueline Lao
Amethyst

Maria Fidos Yap
Blue Pearl

Nellie King
China Jade

Henson Dave Tan
China Jade

Sonia Albano
Diamond

Ed Dante Latonio
Blue Pearl

Josefa "Jing" Tee
China Jade

Conchita Yu
Blue Pearl

Belen Aritao
Ruby

Arnel Arriola
Diamond

Arlene Anonuevo
Diamond

Connie Bayaborda
Jasper

Debbie Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Marichel Lim
Gold

Wilfedo Moscoso
Jet Stars

Ryan Yu
Blue Pearl

Janet Cruz
Crystal

William Ko
Jet Stars

Ma. Teresita Atal
Diamond

Arsenio Vasquez
Jasper

Level 2

- Juliet A. Kintanar
- Ma. Melanie G. Briones
- Violeta S. Ante
- Merle C. Minas
- Bernadette L. Tad-Y
- Fenita Dela V. Olan
- Mariden I. Fondevilla
- Michael Rene S. Agleron
- Sonia L. Tancinco
- Edna R. Nidea
- Conchita C. Tan
- Maria Cherrie Y. Tan
- Manfredo R. Marpa
- Irine M. Lalwet
- Jeffrey Raymond S. Lao
- Adora L. Tudias
- Anthonette L. Mahinay
- Leonides V. Peña
- Clare S. Batolne
- Celia T. Kun
- Paul V. Borromeo
- Helen D. Gianan
- Albert Y. Yung
- Prescilla Gina D. Magbuhos
- Madora-Joliveth C. Avinante
- Alfredo T. Kho

UM Level

- Katherine L. Yap
- Jaime M. Barba
- Ma. Melanie G. Briones
- Henson Dave K. Tan
- Edwin C. Gocuan
- Nenette S. Reyes
- Connie M. Bayaborda
- Maria Fe L. Asprer

BM Level

- Henry C. Gocuan
- Cheryl Lyn J. Martinez
- Myrna L. Galban
- Hue Hun Koa
- Rina M. Siacunco
- George H. Buncayo

Level 1

- Desideria A. Toting
- Jocelyn Grace T. Lao
- Mary Jane B. Chan
- Stephanie H. Flores
- Nenita A. Miranda
- Charlie S. Tang
- Betty G. Alambay
- David C. Villa
- Emmanuel T. Atillo
- Jessie J. Carlos
- Carmencita C. Estrada
- John Joseph M. Lagasca
- Carlito A. Tiu
- Mila R. Andres
- Rebecca S. Camarista
- Eduardo D. Medina
- Loreta H. Chio
- Pedro O. Lim
- Malvin R. Morales
- Luis P. Go
- Ma. Luisa B. Arambulo
- Amelita C. Ropa
- Albert Charles E. Chan
- Mina M. Acot
- Mediatrix C. Celestial
- Wila A. Bahod
- Dolly Jane O. Bok
- Antonio R. Francisco
- Consuelo B. Narrazo
- Jinky R. Adolfo
- Gloria Z. Tena
- Ma. Teresa C. Laguardia
- Analiza V. Loredo
- Ma. Arlene B. Jumangit
- Nimfa S. Marchan
- Anna Lilia P. Gutierrez
- Rafael C. Asprer Jr.
- Maria Judith C. De Castro
- Gladys P. Sangalang
- Ma. Victoria G. Mercado
- Edwin M. Alilano
- Flora T. Tayo
- Imelda Y. Lu
- Eugenio D. Tan
- Elvira G. Del Castillo
- Digna T. Tullao
- Edgar P. Canlas
- Lenie B. Angayen
- Edna I. De Roxas
- Jeanette P. Ferrer
- Mia Franchesca G. Subido
- Samuel A. Talaboc
- Anthony P. Tirona
- Louella T. Collada
- Marlene T. Romero
- Noel A. Siacunco
- Ligaya W. Daniel
- Julie T. Daval-Santos
- Dennis Anthony R. De Guia
- Aileen P. Sarmiento
- Joselito B. Ros
- Cezar G. Miranda
- James Paul S. Bungubung
- Pete F. Marasigan
- Edgin Monzon
- Susan Ma. P. Arrogante
- Elmer A. Salvadora
- Thelma C. Lanuza
- Benicio M. Caparas
- Derek Q. Diez III
- Cristina Go
- Mark Allan E. Ching
- Caridad F. Manabat
- Maribel A. Espayos
- Darwin E. Andrey
- Flora E. Sapalaran
- Shirley S. Tan
- Tony T. Navarro
- Lily L. Pama
- Florence R. Saavedra
- Carmelito M. Jimenez
- Betty T. Go
- Zenaida G. Tiambeng
- Leah D. Santiago
- Luz A. Prodigo
- Robert V. Gil
- Juliet N. Ku
- Jocelyn M. Macaraig
- Aurelio M. Cifra
- Emmanuel R. Crisostomo
- Aurora R. Gesmundo
- Cheryl M. Tanchico
- Ferdinand S. Patlu
- Glecibel P. Tapia
- Annabelle R. Laberinto
- Anabelle B. Duran
- Pilar Veronica B. Go
- Arlene A. Diamante
- Ma. Lourdes G. Lu
- Lourdes L. Garcia
- Judy A. Lopez

PRU Gold

Top 5 Winners

Albert Yung
Chrysolite

Gwendolyn Pardo
Blue Pearl

Katherine Yap
Blue Pearl

Arceli Tan
Tektite

Artemio Wapanio
Blue Pearl

Gold

Pedro Lim
China Jade

Nellie King
China Jade

Ma. Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Henson Tan
China Jade

Matea Bitong
Diamond

Arnel Arriola
Diamond

Melanie Briones
Diamond

Nancy Ampaguey
Garnet

Adora Tudias
Garnet

Belen Aritao
Ruby

Gilbert Chua
Blue Pearl

Edwin Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Maria Fe Asprer
Blue Pearl

Irene Yu
Blue Pearl

Caridad Manabat
Jasper

Ma. Ching Guinto
Jet Stars

Theresa Hinolan
Jet Stars

Clio Marie Yatco
MM 1

James Bungubung
Peridot

Silver

- Cornelio Pahang
- Ma. Lourdes Yap
- Cristina Suarez
- Jacinto Tan
- Ana Tang
- Cristina Go
- Sonia Albano
- Che Martinez
- Ariel Rosales
- Irine Lalwet
- Leonides Pena
- Wila Bahod
- Lourdes Garcia
- Leah Salmorin
- Fenita Olan
- William Ko
- Wilfredo Moscoso
- Edna de Roxas
- Ma. Veronica Sun
- Thelma Lanuza
- Edgar Canlas
- Anthony Tirona

Bronze

- Cheryl Tanchico
- Luisa Arambulo
- Clare Batolne
- Ma. Emehilda Binamira
- Charina Lagda
- Noemi Aningat
- Sylvia Segui
- Benicio Caparas
- Jeannette Ferrer
- Joseph Lopez

GAMA Awardees

Jaime M. Barba	CDA Bronze
Henry C. Gocuan	NMA Bronze
Edwin C. Gocuan	CDA Bronze
Hue Hun Koa	NMA Bronze
Conchita C. Tan	CDA Bronze
Katherine L. Yap	CDA Bronze

Message

We are five! And how we have grown from 0 agents to more than a thousand now, from a neophyte foreign entrant to the number 6 player based on FYPI ordinary business. I am proud to say that we have surpassed the most crucial stage in the life of a new company, and have positioned ourselves among the major players in the Philippine insurance industry.

Many believe that success is a complex matter. But our formula is simple: enthusiasm and focus. These are the propelling forces that saw us through the years, and inspired us to weather all the trials and challenges we faced. Also instrumental in boosting our performance is the confidence and support given us by our mother company.

Most importantly, I salute the people resource of Pru Life UK -- the committed agency force ably supported by the management and staff. Your commitment to our vision has brought us to where we stand today.

Let us continue to chart Pru Life's future together. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!

Bobby G. Madrid
President & CEO
PRU LIFE UK

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

TRIPLE-G Pawnshop Co., Ltd. 323 Herbosa St. Tondo Manila - 8:30 am. All unredeemed pledges for the month of June 2001 will be auctioned on November 24, 2001 - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ELIGIO BAISA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICILALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 63: PAGE NO. 14 BK; NO. XII; SERIES OF 2001 OF NOT. PUB. E. GENCIANA OF MANILA
PDI-Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Francisco Miranda and Cleofas N. Miranda has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs a per Doc. # 46; Page # II; Book # VI ; Series of 2001 before Notary Public C. Fortunato R. Balasbas of Manila (PDI - November 8, 15 & 22 ' 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DR. EDGARDO L. AVILA of the Municipality of Paniqui, Province of Tarlac, consisting of real and personal properties, was extrajudicially settled and distributed among his heirs by means of a public document executed on the 17th day of October, 2001 and ratified before Atty. Reynante V. Hilario, Notary Public in and for the Province of Tarlac, as per Doc 1256, Page Number 252, Book Number 6 Series of 2001 of this Notarial Register. (PDI-Nov. 1,8,&15 2001)

Notice that heirs of Jorge Santos Viola executed extrajudicial settlement of his estate dated November 8, 2001 per Doc. 322, Page 66, Book V, Series of 2001 acknowledged before Notary Public Gallardo S. Tongonan of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the ff. certificates of stock issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of Victorina Veloso, cert. of Stock Nos. 27, 53, 74, 92, 112, 126, 142, 154, 170, 186, 209, 223, 236 and 249 representing a total of 3,368 shares have been lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 8, 15 & 22, 2001)

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Look for Ms. Arlene S. Cruz

Republic of the Philippines
Civil Service Commission
Constitution Hills, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Diliman 1126 Quezon City

Conduct of Career Service Examination - Professional
Level on November 18, 2001
x--x

RESOLUTION NO. 011784

WHEREAS, appointments in the civil service shall be made only according to merit and fitness to be determined as far as practicable by competitive examinations;

WHEREAS, the Commission gave Police Officer examinations in 1991 up to 1997 resulting in eligibility appropriate for first level positions in the government;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8551 required a bachelor's degree as the educational qualification for Police Officer positions in the Philippine National Police;

WHEREAS, the Commission ruled that the Police Officer Examination given in July 1998 and thereafter, shall be an appropriate eligibility for Police Officer positions in the Philippine National Police and other second level positions in the career service;

WHEREAS, the National Police Commission questioned before the Court of Appeals the authority of the Civil Service Commission in giving examinations for police officers;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court affirmed with finality the Court of Appeals' ruling that the National Police Commission has the sole authority to conduct entrance and promotional examinations for police officers;

WHEREAS, the Commission has an approved examination calendar for year 2001 indicating a scheduled Police Officer Examination on November 18, 2001;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police which has for its rosters numerous Police Officers with temporary appointments, does not object to the holding of a Career Service Examination on November 18, 2001 in lieu of the scheduled Police Officer Examination;

WHEREAS, before the receipt of the aforementioned Supreme Court decision, the Commission has approved the conduct of validating examination for six examinees of the May 20, 2001 Police Officer Examination on November 18, 2001 pursuant to CSC Resolution No. 011596 dated October 3, 2001.

WHEREFORE, foregoing premises considered, the Commission hereby RESOLVES to:

1. Discontinue giving the Police Officer Examination scheduled on November 18, 2001;
2. Give a Career Service Examination - Professional level on November 18, 2001 instead of the scheduled Police Officer Examination;
3. Let the applicants of the November 18, 2001 Police Officer Examination take the Career Service Examination - Professional level on November 18, 2001 on a voluntary basis by accomplishing an examinee statement form explicitly stating their understanding of the circumstances. The statement form is hereto attached as Annex A;
4. Refund the full amount of examination fee to those examinees who opt not to take the Career Service Examination - Professional level on November 18, 2001 within one month after the examination date;
5. Let those examinees who will not be able to either take the examination on November 18, 2001 or claim refund of their examination fees be admitted to a Career Service Examination - Professional level, free of charge, either through Computer-Assisted Test, Walk-In Now, or Paper and Pencil Test until June 2002; and
6. Conduct the scheduled validating examination for May 20, 2001 Police Officer Examination on November 18, 2001 as prescribed by CSC Resolution No. 011596 dated October 3, 2001.

Quezon City, November 13, 2001

(Sgd.) **KARINA CONSTANTINO-DAVID**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **JOSE F. ERESTAIN, JR.**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **J. WALDEMAR V. VALMORES**
Commissioner

Attested by:

(Sgd.) **ARIEL G. RONQUILLO**
Director III

EXAMINEE'S STATEMENT

I understand that the civil service examination on November 18, 2001 is a Career Service Examination - Professional level (CSE-Prof) given in lieu of the Police Officer Examination in view of the Supreme Court decision on the matter of giving examinations for police officers. I understand further that the CSE-Prof will result in the grant of civil service eligibility for 2nd level positions in the career service appropriate for professional, technical and scientific work, in a non-supervisory or supervisory capacity, including Police Officer up to Superintendent positions in the Philippine National Police.

In consideration thereof, I opt: (please check your preference) .

☐ to take the CSE-Prof on November 18, 2001.
☐ not to take the CSE-Prof and claim refund of the examination fee within one month from November 18, 2001.

____
(signature)
____
(printed name)
____
(room assignment and school)
____
(date)

ATTENTION TO ALL PENSIONERS

Effective 16 November 2001, pension checks shall be issued every 16th day, instead of every 1st day of the month. This would mean that the pension checks could only be negotiated/encashed on or after the 16th day of the month starting November 2001 and every month thereafter.

The regular distribution of checks for local pick-up shall be on the succeeding working day after the 15th day of the month for a period of three (3) days with the usual schedule of distribution by category of pensioners. As in the past, the pension checks could already be withdrawn on the 1st working day of the month, however these checks could only be encashed/negotiated on or after the 16th day of the month.

These changes are due to the present economic and financial condition being experienced by the country that requires the adoption of fiscal and monetary adjustment in undertaking government fund transactions. This program must therefore adjust the date of issue of pension checks to conform with the actual releases of cash allocation from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

For inquiries, call the AFP Pension and Gratuity Information hotline at Tel. Nos. 9113193 or 9116001 local 6258/6642.

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JOSEFINA PAKINGAN CRUZ

of Anabu, Imus, Cavite

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on the 5th day of November 2001
at Bellwood General Hospital, Bellflower City,
California, U.S.A. at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband **MARTIN CRUZ**; children **Angelita** (†) & **Ricardo Millan, Corazon** & **Manuel Rodriguez** (†), **Purita Cruz Tirona, Dalisay P. Cruz, Atty. Danilo P. Cruz, Nelia** & **Danilo Lara, Divinia** & **Antonio Sarao, Rogelio** & **Virginia Cruz, Josephine P. Cruz** (†); grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive today from Los Angeles, California and will lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 18, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

RAMON HIPOLITO TENGCO

June 04, 1952 – November 13, 2001

His loving parents **Pete** and **Zeny**; only child **Mia**; her mother **Bing-Bing**; brothers and sisters **Tony**, **Corina**, **Al**, **Louie** and **Rosanna**; in-laws **Tabby**, **Carla**, **Maite** and **Rene**; nephews and nieces, and beloved friend **Gina**.

Ask dear relatives, friends and readers to pray for the joyful reunion of his soul with the divine Creator.

The wake is at Santuario de San Antonio Forbes, Makati City.

Interment of his cremated remains will be on Thursday, November 15, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the
BANTAY KALIKASAN - La Mesa Watershed Project
will be deeply appreciated.

Florencia "Poyeng" R. Castro

Has joined her husband "Luding" and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on November 14, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her loving children **TESS & BERT CASTRO, DR. TEDDY & MERCY ANTON**; grandchildren **TONI & CAKA, MANOLET, TRICIA, MICHAEL**; great granddaughter **SAMANTHA**; brother **REMIGIO**; and sister **PRISCILA**.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 17, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

BENITO R. DE GUZMAN

of Gapan, Nueva Ecija and Caloocan City

Died on November 13, 2001
at the age of 76.

He is remembered by his wife **Rosalina**; sister **Benita**; children **Edilberto, Florante, Jocelyn, Melinda, Glenn, Angelita, Rey** and **Boyet**, grandchildren and relatives.

His remains lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City but will be transferred to Pulo, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija on Friday morning.

Interment will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2001 at 10:00 AM in Pulo, San Isidro.

Eternal life will
swallow up that
which can die. God
made us for this very reason
and He has given us the
Spirit as a guarantee that we
will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

Rodolfo R. Alvarez

April 21, 1924 - November 13, 2001

His wife **Rose**; children **Rico** and **Clotie**, **Rouel** and **Chu**, **Raquel**, **Fr. Ramiel**; sisters **Belit** and **Nena**; sister-in-law **Vess**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to include him in their prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Alvarez residence, Alvarez St., Alvarez Subdivision, Pagbilao, Quezon.

Interment will be on November 17, 2001 at 11:00 a.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 11-090-01

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

RIV No.	Quantity	Item/Description
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Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, during regular office hours from **November 12-29, 2001**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids not later than **December 5, 2001**, Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. and shall then be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MELCHOR M. ALONZO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2001)

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Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all drug manufacturers/suppliers for the bidding of *300,000 blister packs* containing 1 capsule of 450 mg. Rifampicin, 1 tablet of 300 mg. Isoniazid and 1 tablet of 500 mg. Pyrazinamide and *600,000 blister packs* containing 1 capsule of 450 mg. Rifampicin and 1 tablet of 300 mg. Isoniazid. The approved budget for this project is P 8,000,000.00.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bidding documents starting **November 15, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112 A. Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 27, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 6, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--Nov. 15 & 16, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED
RURAL BANK OF MANGATAREM (Pangasinan), INC. (RBMI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operation will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from November 16 to December 13, 2001, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   The settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 in RB Mangatarem, Inc.—Head Office as well as the start of payoff operations in RB Mangatarem, Inc.—Bayambang Branch will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Mangatarem (Pangasinan) Inc. is on **April 8, 2003**. After April 8, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Nov. 15 & 16, 2001)

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DTI to step up importation of cheap drugs

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho speaks to delegates of the 27th Philippine Business Conference. The Macapagal administration has told businessmen to focus on running their business and leave the business of governance to the government.

JOHNNY VILLENA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that it would step up its importation of cheap medicine from India after members of the World Trade Organization moved closer to relaxing trade rules on patented drugs.

A statement from the trade department reported that WTO members had nearly reached an agreement on a draft declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, or Trips.

The agreement will allow Third World countries to interpret and implement the Trips agreement in a manner supportive of the WTO members' rights to protect public health and, in particular, ensure access to medicines.

While the trade department's parallel importation of medicine from India has been ongoing since late last year, it has made little impact on driving down the high prices of drugs in the country because its sale has been limited only to government hospitals.

Multinational pharmaceutical firms have vigorously opposed the importation of drugs from India because it will undermine their lucrative operations in the country.

In a statement from Doha, Qatar, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he and his like-minded colleagues from Africa, Asia and South America pushed their version of a more liberal interpretation of the Trips agreement in 1994.

The Trips agreement has been the main stumbling block to the government's bid to bring cheap medicine in bigger volumes and broader range.

The accord guarantees 20-year patents on medicine that requires countries to seek a waiver for their use as generic drugs before they can be traded between countries or face sanctions from the WTO.

Roxas has criticized developed countries for agreeing to relax patents on medicine in cases of pandemics, such as the Aids epidemic in Africa, when they can save substantially more lives by allowing developing countries with marginalized population to buy ordinary medicine.

He said the insistence of the supremacy of private rights at the expense of public health would undermine the legacy of the Trips agreement.

BSP set to draw from $400-M bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday that it expected to get this week proceeds from a $400-million, four-year bond issue to be used to beef up the country's dollar reserves to $14 billion.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the borrowing, which was handled by JP Morgan Chase & Co., was fully oversubscribed from its original level of $200 million.

"The debt notes would carry a coupon rate of 9 percent. It attracted mostly Asian investors and some Europeans. It was a successful issue, and we expect the money this week," Tetangco told reporters.

He said proceeds from the borrowing would be enough to lift the country's gross international reserves above $14 billion.

The central bank is trying to keep its reserves at $14 billion as any level below this amount will suggest that the country will not be able to fight off speculative attacks against the peso.

With a 9-percent coupon rate, the bonds will pay a higher yield compared with placements in dollar deposits that yield only about 2 percent a year.

As of October, the country's dollar reserves stood at $14.4 billion, a level still perceived to be healthy since it was still twice the amount of the country's short-term maturing obligations and could finance 4.3 months worth of imports.

"We are being careful that our GIR will not fall below $14 billion pending the borrowings of the national government. The reserves have a psychological impact to the market and if, let's say, it falls to $13.8 billion, there will be a lot of speculations," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an earlier interview.

The central bank is also counting on foreign loans that the government is set to secure to beef up the country's dollar reserves.

The government has already completed at least $850 million in fresh funds next year.

The money that the government expects is already enough to maintain a health international reserves level, but the central bank is not taking any chances.

"We would like to take a more cautious stance because there are too many unknowns. We would just like to build up our reserves and play it safe," Buenaventura said.

Cable TV operators ready for DTI probe

By Abigail L. Ho

SKY Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Corp. said on Tuesday that they were ready to face the Department of Trade and Industry's probe into allegations that they were misleading their subscribers.

Sky managing director Carlos Tria Jr. said in an interview that one of Sky's representatives already sat down with Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. to explain the company's side in its recent dispute with cable content provider Star TV Asia Ltd.

"We already had a meeting at the DTI. We explained what really happened, with respect to the Star issue," he told the Inquirer.

Trade officials are set to investigate whether Sky and Home violated provisions of the Consumer Act, particularly those related to deceptive and unfair sales practices.

Tria said the trade department had already asked Sky and Home to submit samples of their contracts and advertising materials to determine whether they, in any way, misled their subscribers.

"I think it's very clear in our subscription contracts with our subscribers that we don't commit to carry specific programs because program lineups really change," he said.

Tria said there were four reasons why Sky and Home did not include specific programs in their subscription contracts: the possibility of not coming to terms with program providers; addition of new channels to their lineups; replacement of lower rating programs with higher rating ones; and, the chance that a program provider would suddenly go out of business.

"The first one is just like what happened with us and Star. There was no agreement on a contract renewal because of a problem between the operator and the (program provider). That can happen. That's why we cannot commit," Tria explained.

He said if there were specific program commitments in their subscription contracts, Sky and Home would not have any negotiating leverage with the programmer as they would already have a contractual obligation with the consumer to fulfill.

Also, there was always a possibility that they would add more channels to their existing lineups. Tria said this was what Sky and Home did to eat at the cable television industry pie when they were still rivals.

They also tend to replace lower rating programs with higher rating ones from the genres.

"Recently, with Home Cable, we replaced Viva with CinemaOne, which is a higher rated program in the same genre. They're both Tagalog channels, but CinemaOne had a higher rating," Tria said.

DOE orders review of Sual power system

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy has ordered the National Power Corp. and Mirant Philippines Corp. to jointly form a committee that will review the reliability of their transmission systems.

Mirant Philippines, an independent power producer, operates the 1,000-megawatt, coal-fired Sual power plant in Pangasinan.

The tripping of the Sual power plant on Sunday was followed by the breaking down of other power plants in Luzon, causing an islandwide blackout. Power was restored after Napocor tapped electricity from other power plants.

In a letter dated Nov. 8, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. instructed officials of Napocor and Mirant "to coordinate closely to improve the Mirant plant's operations and Napocor's transmission system."

Perez ordered the two firms to draft recommendations to improve and ensure Sual's reliability.

He gave them to come up with their recommendations.

Also yesterday, Napocor president Jesus Alcordo said power outages were a given in the industry.

Alcordo said it was a question of reliability since the more efficient plants had less incidences of outages.

"We are looking at the whole problem and there are ways in avoiding this but you cannot have 100-percent guarantee," he said.

The only way to address the problem is to increase the reliability of the system, he added.

Alcordo said Napocor should have a capability to isolate problems immediately so that when a power plant broke down, the entire system would not bog down.

"Our system of automatic load dropping, which is meant to reduce the load to stabilize the system, actually worked when the Sual and Calaca plants tripped," the Napocor chief said.

Nestlé remains . . .

(From page B1)

and that there was no need to pursue new borrowings.

"It's very unlikely that we'll revise it but everybody is reviewing strategic plans now and if there's a significant slowdown, we'll look at it. Today, it looks like we're not affected. We're lucky that we are in consumer goods manufacturing," he said.

Consumer spending in the country has somehow offset the lower incomes arising from the slowdown in offshore demand for locally manufactured products.

Santos also admitted that earnings would likely fall short of the company's targets this year due to higher production costs.

"Costs have gone up and in certain areas where we can or should implement price increases because of the economic slowdown, we were unable to do so," he said.

Apart from exploring export opportunities, Nestlé was hoping that its expansion program would enhance employment opportunities for some 1,000 people in downstream industries through local suppliers of packaging materials, transport and other related services.

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Promo period: November 15 to December 31 2001

Practicality makes concepts a reality

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

(Second of two parts)

PRACTICALITY, together with market forces, is what drives concept vehicles from the drawing board to the production line. The thinking is that once a vehicle is sensible enough, meaning if it can deliver what is expected of a vehicle used for everyday driving, then it will most likely find its way to the showrooms.

Some of the most successful examples of concept cars becoming production vehicles have come from Toyota. The RAV-4 was a concept car designed for "fun after work," and made it from idea (the first mock-up was exhibited in the 1993 Tokyo Motor Show) to production model by 1995.

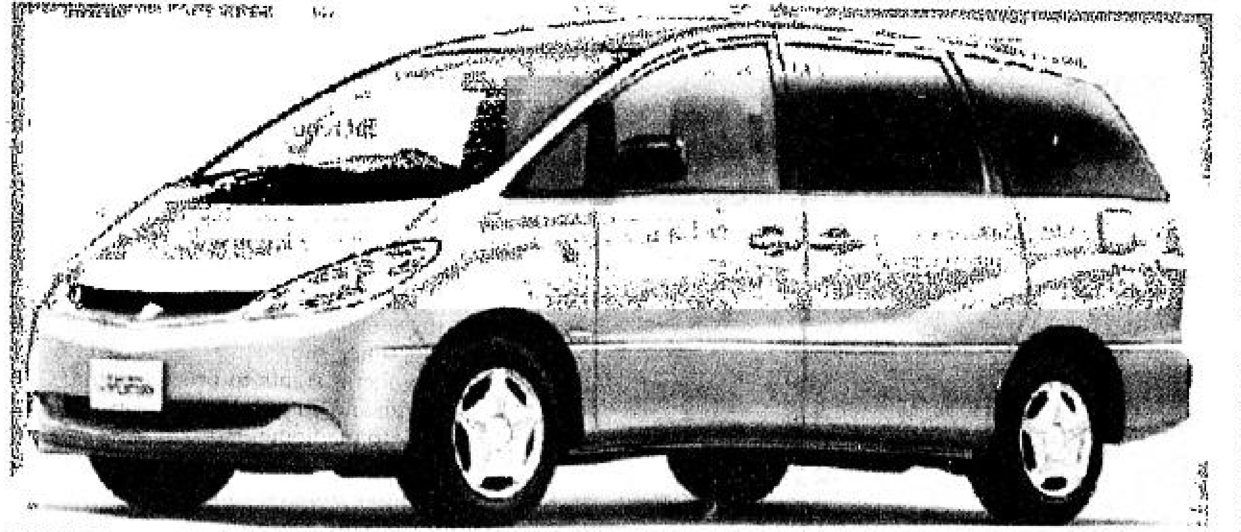
Japan's largest automaker then set its sights on hybrid vehicles, showing a prototype of the Prius Hybrid in 1997. The Prius is considered the first commercially available, mass produced, all-hybrid passenger car. It featured the combined use of two power sources to a highly efficient drivetrain.

Estima minivan

For 2001, Toyota introduced the Estima Hybrid minivan. This is the second phase toward Toyota's goal of producing more than 300,000 hybrid vehicles in 2005.

Billed as the world's first hybrid minivan, the Estima Hybrid combines a normal medium displacement gas engine to a high-output electric motor. This power unit is hooked up to an advanced continuously variable transmission (CVT). Called the THS-C (Toyota Hybrid System-CVT), the system is designed for larger cars and minivans. It may soon find its way to Toyota's luxurious Crown and Celsior lines.

The THS-C results in low emissions and impressive fuel economy. It is also equipped with E-Four, an innovative four-wheel-drive system, which controls each wheel electronically. Other active safety features include electronically controlled braking (ECB), antilock brakes, skid and traction control.



ESTIMA

Under the Japanese cycle (10-15 mode) fuel usage tests, the hybrid minivan has consistently covered 18 km per liter under all conditions. That is about double the distance even the most efficient conventional minivans can make.

Expensive technology?

Toyota Japan president Fujio Cho said the four-wheel-drive Estima Hybrid qualifies as a U-LEV model (Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle). Falling under California's stringent pollution control legislation, a U-LEV vehicle must conform to, or have lower solid particle and noxious gas emission than required by state law. Exports to the United States are expected within the next six months with Europe likely to follow within 2002. The vehicle may not see Philippine shores because of a prohibitive price tag. It will cost about US$29,000 (P1,580,000 without taxes and duties). Besides, a lack of consumer demand for an environmentally safe vehicle is expected, now exacerbated by a depressed economy.

According to Auto Asia, Toyota aims to boost output of hybrid vehicles to 300,000 units in 2005, up from 19,000 last year. The company's output of hybrid vehicles is about 3,000 units per month. But as demand for the hybrid Prius passenger car grows steadily in Japan and in the United States, where fuel prices are increasing, Toyota expects to see sales double. Cho also noted that Toyota has sold over 60,000 Prius cars in Japan, Europe and the United States.

Honda's hybrid Civic

Not about to be outdone, Honda also launched its first hybrid passenger vehicle last September

Honda's Civic Hybrid was only formally launched in the last Tokyo Motor Show. Unlike Toyota, which chose to develop a whole new platform for the Prius, departing both in looks and philosophy from the Corolla or Corona lineup, Honda chose to develop its second hybrid passenger car on the existing Honda Civic chassis.

Honda used an improved version of its patented IMA (Integrated Motor Assist) system, a unique hybrid system that incorporates a state-of-the-art lean-burn combustion technology. This is coupled to a newly developed cylinder idling system that adapts Honda's VTEC variable valve control system. Idling cylinders not only cuts emissions but also significantly increases the amount of electrical energy recovered during deceleration. This is because engine resistance is reduced during deceleration, a problem common to regenerative braking systems, thus greatly improving the vehicle's electrical regenerative efficiency.

Combined with the Honda Multimatic S continuously variable automatic transmission, the Civic Hybrid can travel 29 km on a liter of unleaded. It runs cleanly enough to be recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Transport as an Ultra Low-Emissions Vehicle and may find its way into the US market once a left-hand drive version is developed.

Recovering power

The new IMA System employs a gasoline engine as its main power source, assisted by an electric motor as the need arises. It offers improved efficiency over the previous IMA System on which its design is based. Honda's first hybrid, the Insight, was equipped with the previous IMA system and boasted of the highest fuel economy in the world for a production vehicle.

During acceleration and other times of heavy engine load, the motor assist system contributes considerable torque, resulting in both lower fuel consumption and powerful acceleration. At cruising speeds when the engine load is lower, the motor assist system shuts down. Even without motor assist, the newly developed 1.3-liter i-DSI lean-burn engine achieves the highest standard of fuel economy.

During deceleration, the motor converts the dissipated energy into electricity (regenerative braking). An auto idle-stop system maximizes fuel economy and minimizes or lowers emissions. For example, when stopping at an intersection, the engine shuts off automatically, then restarts immediately when the driver steps on the accelerator pedal.

Why not electric cars?

Since concept cars develop to commercially viable vehicles on the basis of its practicality, electric cars seemed to have been left behind. Why? Three reasons. First, the lack of infrastructure to support electric vehicles, for instance filling stations. Second, the unrealistic charging times needed to power up a battery. And finally, the absence of a truly sensible, for-extensive-use powerplant for electric cars.

Despite improved motor systems and significant development in battery and fuel cell technologies, sourcing power for electric vehicles remains to be its biggest stumbling block. Even Honda realized this when they offered their Honda EV to the public. The vehicle was not sold, but rather leased to qualified individuals mostly in Japan, the United Kingdom and California. The lease contract includes test reporting and vehicle evaluation of a regular basis.

Another company, GM, which also made an electric vehicle, temporarily shelved the project because of poor consumer response, while Solectria, a California-based electric carmaker continues to produce and sell its electric vehicles to environmentally-responsible citizens. This despite the less-than-expected mileage-per-charge.

The results of these tests are now being analyzed by engineers in Japan and it is expected that in a few years, a practical, fully electric vehicle will be made available and popularize the concept of the electric vehicle as an everyday car.

As the years go by and as the automobile evolves from merely a mode of transport to an interactive tool for mobility, expect more concept cars to find its way to the production lines. This will happen as manufacturers are making more usable and viable, technologies that in the past, were only existent in their imaginations.

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The importance of the AUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF the latest Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) report proves anything, it's the importance of the AUV.

Although sales of commercial vehicles, the category to which Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) belong, declined by 6 percent in the first 10 months of the year to 43,663 units from 46,441 in the same period last year, that drop was slight compared to the 21.6 percent plunge in passenger car sales. From January to October 2001, only 20,017 passenger cars were sold while in the same period last year, 25,536 were sold. Campi reported last Thursday that overall, sales of locally assembled motor vehicles fell by 11.5 percent to 63,680 units in the first 10 months of 2001 compared to 71,977 in the year-ago period due to the global recession and the influx of auctioned secondhand cars via Subic Freeport.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. retained their No. 1 and No. 2 slots, respectively, because of their AUV products. Of the 16,291 motor vehicles Toyota sold for a 25.6 percent market share, more than half—8,974 units–were its popular Tamaraw FX-turned-Revo AUV. Runner-up Mitsubishi sold 14,189 vehicles for a 22 percent market share and nearly half of these—6,270 units—were its recently refurbished AUV model, the Adventure.

More significantly, perhaps, Isuzu Philippines Corp. dislodged Honda Cars Philippines Inc. from third place in total sales by selling 8,021 vehicles. More than half of the Isuzu vehicles sold—4,988 units, to be exact—were the snazzy new Hi-Lander AUV that is now known as the Crosswind.

Honda, which doesn't manufacture an AUV, dropped to fourth place with total sales of 7,993 vehicles or 12.5 percent market share in the first 10 months of the year.

The three top-selling auto manufacturers' sales figures for the first 10 months of the year and the AUV's leading role in those figures could make Honda, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. reconsider their decision not to enter the AUV market. In Ford's case, it would be a reentry since the Ford Fiera was the very first AUV in the country. Nissan, on the other hand, would have to defer to Universal Motors Corp., the Philippine assembler of Nissan commercial vehicles.

Meanwhile, Honda may have already preempted the competition. In Tokyo last Oct. 25, Asian Honda president Satoshi Toshida revealed that Honda is doing "a lot of studies" on the "very attractive" AUV market in the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries. "We know this market is very important," he said.

Aside from market studies, Honda is looking at the technical angle in terms of adapting an existing Honda vehicle into a high-quality yet competitively priced AUV, Toshida added. The initial finding? "Technically, it's possible," he replied. This answer may lead some to jump to the conclusion that the rumor circulating among car buffs about the 2002 Honda CR-V is true: that it will have nine seats to avail of the tax exemption granted to vehicles seating nine or more. This rumor has even morphed into the wilder rumor that the CR-V will be converted into an AUV.

Toshida smiled and admitted that he had also heard the rumor. Although Toshida wouldn't comment on it, I for one think it's unlikely that the upmarket CR-V, which is classified as a compact sport utility vehicle in the United States as well as the Philippines and retails here for more than a million pesos, would be repositioned as an AUV. That would diminish the CR-V's cachet in the lucrative US market. Besides, Honda has a lineup of some 40 vehicles to choose from while its ability to expand its vehicle range and come up quickly with new models has set an industry benchmark in Japan, according to a recent Reuters article.

A new chapter in the local car wars opens if and when Honda and the other players decide to enter the AUV market. My fearless forecast is that it will be a duel for leadership between Toyota and Honda not only in the Philippines' AUV market, but in the total market share as well. Toyota and Honda continue to produce the most popular cars in Japan, reports Ken Belson of the New York Times Service and the latest auto industry reports show that both Japanese carmakers have substantially increased their sales in the United States at Detroit's expense. Meanwhile, the rivalry between Toyota and Honda rolls on in other parts of the world such as Europe, where Toyota's award-winning subcompact Yaris (known as Echo here and Vitz in Japan) will be challenged soon by Honda's fastest-selling, newest car in Japan, the 1.3-liter Fit.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.

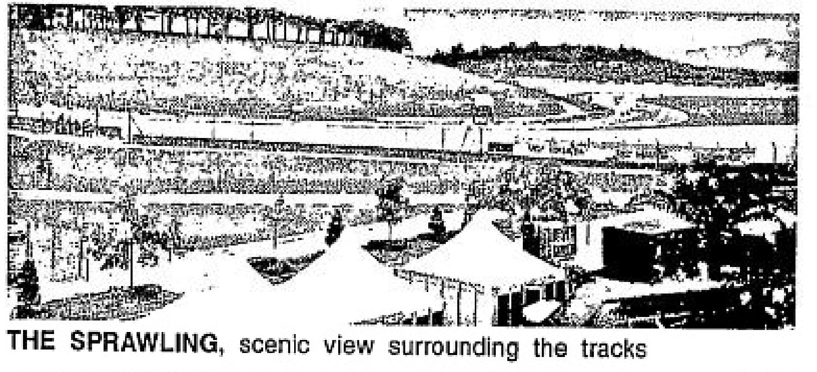
* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

Why Filipinos are not thrilled by motorcycle racing

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

ASIA'S finest racing circuit



THE SPRAWLING, scenic view surrounding the tracks

WHEN it comes to sports, Filipinos don't generally go for speed. We'd probably won't watch it unless there's some scoring involved. We'd also most likely get bored with it if there's no punishing physical contact. That's why we enjoy basketball and boxing better than any other sport. That's what I have observed working as a sportswriter for the past nine years.

But what I don't understand is why Filipinos are not thrilled by motorsports like motorcycle racing.

An average Filipino must have ridden –if not driven – a motorcycle at least once in his life. Out in the streets we see all types of motorcycles. From big, racing bikes, touring bikes to motocross bikes down to scooters. And for crying out loud, we're probably the only nation in the world which uses tricycle as a major means of transportation. That's how familiar we are with these two-wheeled machines.

"Maybe it's because motorcycle racing, like car racing, is generally identified with the rich," said Serge Bernal Jr., Pilipinas Shell, marketing manager for motorcycle lubricants. "But I think it's something we would eventually outgrow like what happened in golf."

This writer, along with Norkis-Yamaha Rudy Nadela, YRS owner Yoyong Buncio and Luzon Motorcyclists Federation Inc. president Nonoy Cabrera, shared Bernal's views after watching the recent Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix in the world-famous Sepang International Circuit.

The world's cream of the crop in the motorcycle racing was all there for the penultimate leg of the season held in Asia's finest racing circuit, 75 kilometers outside Kuala Lumpur. Sepang's course is 5.5 kilometers long and is shaped like a dove in flight, but the complex is 125 hectares all in all with 130,000 crowd capacity.

The strange thing was, people actually showed up to watch the races (125cc, 250cc and centerpiece 500cc) despite the 100-degree heat and the staggering ticket prices, which fetched to as high as RM80 (roughly P1,200) for a seat in the stands.

We witnessed the event inside one of the posh Pit Suites where 18 television monitors were installed and a sumptuous spread of Oriental dishes awaited the VIPs. Shell and Yamaha had their respective teams competing so at least we had somebody to root for despite the fact that there was no Filipino among the racers.

True enough, the competitions were truly world-class. The high-speed action I've only seen on ESPN I've actually experienced live. Okay, so we won't get to see all the stuff watching from the Pit Suite, but it was all very satisfying seeing it unfold live. For example, I now learned that engines running in full throttle don't roar like what it was often described. It was cross between a shrill and a wail, amplified 10 times from what you hear on TV.

We also marveled at the sprawling, scenic view surrounding the tracks and the way the file of sticker-festooned machines snaked through it in frenzy like giant Tamiya remote-controlled toys. How could they handle such speed—running as fast as 250 kph in the stretch and dealing with multiple hairpin turns—and still be concerned of getting ahead of everybody else?

No wonder somebody would always take a spill. One thing with spill is that, it gives flavor to the race. Spill is the guilt pleasure in motorcyle racing. It endangers the racers' lives and limbs, but it was always spectacular to watch.

Like in the 500cc finals, favorite contender Max Biaggi of Italy was in hot pursuit of the pole position in his attempt to catch up with season-leader Valentino Rossi, also of Italy. Biaggi, dubbed as the Roman Emperor for his regal bearing on the grid, was negotiating a sharp curb trying to sneak into the lead pack.

But the lanes suddenly closed in on him, causing his front wheel to wiggle and hit the rear wheel of lap frontrunner Kenny Roberts of the United States. They both spun out of the tracks, losing precious time and crashing out of the race with only four laps into the 21-lap finals.

Nobody was hurt, for tunately, but their chances of taking the world title away from the 22-year-old Rossi went up like the smoke of their beaten bikes. Rossi went on to win the event and capture the world championship with still one leg left in Rio de Janeiro in November.

Zero-interest, easy-payment terms for Isuzu Crosswind

MORE exciting deals are in the offing from Isuzu Philippines Corp., the country's diesel technology specialist. Until Nov. 30, buyers of the all-new Hi-lander Crosswind will enjoy huge discounts and value-for-money financing schemes for. the XTO and XT models.

Get zero percent monthly interest with the Crosswind XTO A/T for a 50 percent down payment. An initial cash outlay of P386,500 (from sales price of P773,000) would give buyers a no-interest premium on their monthly installments on a 12 or 18 months term. Also for the XTO M/T is a zero interest plan for a 50 percent down payment of P366,500 (from sales price of P733,000), on a 12-month paying term.

Likewise, buyers are given a low down payment option so they can own a Crosswind at a minimum cash outlay. Get the Crosswind XTO A/T at a low 20 percent down payment of P106,660. The down payment for an XTO M/T, on the other hand, is pegged at P108,660, 20 percent of its selling price. Buyers can also get a Crosswind XT model for as low as P114,000 down payment, 20 percent of its P670,000 selling price.

Big discounts also await all cash buyers! A whopping P48,000 price off is tagged with the Crosswind XTO A/T. This allows buyers to get an XTO automatic for a low P725,000. At the same time, the XTO M/T is pegged at P695,00, a sizeable P38,000 cash discount.

And further spicing up these irresistible deals, Isuzu comes out with a Crosswind Special Edition model bearing the fresh and hip Chameleon Pearl Green color. The first and only multipurpose vehicle in pearl finish, the Crosswind Special Edition comes with black leather seats cum green stitching plus green seatbelts to go with its body tone. With only 100 units available, this Special Edition comes in A/T and M/T with selling price of P799,000 and P759,000, respectively.

With the promo applicable also to the Crosswind Special Edition, buyers have options whether to go low down payment or cash discount scheme. For a low P125,000 down payment, get the Crosswind Special Edition A/T model. For the Crosswind XTO Special Edition M/T, a minimum P127,800 outlay is all it takes. On the other hand, cash buyers can get the Crosswind XTO Special Edition A/T and M/T for P765,000 and P735,000, respectively.

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▸ You need space? The Vito offers plenty of room and freedom to move for all passengers, with sufficient luggage space. And with an improved seating arrangement as an option, passengers are assured of a comfortable ride.

▸ Looks? Simply striking with its more attractive exterior design. The new painted bumpers and mirrors and a decorative stripe are real eye-catchers whenever the Vito's on the road.

▸ Interiors? The Vito has an ergonomic cockpit with automatic transmission and a practical dash-mounted joystick shifting lever so your eyes stay on the road.

▸ Well, of course, you can always expect more from a Mercedes-Benz. Find out when you test-drive the Vito at your nearest dealer!

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What to do when your vehicle gets the 'fever'

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

YOU were driving along the expressway cruising at 80 kph. It was a bright day and you were in a happy mood. The traffic was light but suddenly the engine conked out! At first, you thought it was the gas but you remembered filling it up this morning. Then you noticed white smoke billowing in front of the hood. Looking at the temperature gauge, the needle was hovering in the red zone and you realized why you stopped: overheated engine. You uttered some well-chosen cuss words as you pull off the road.

Just like the human body, your car won't run without adequate supply of water. Overheating can be extremely bad for a car. Back in the days of carburetors, when engines were made of steel, overheating was much more common, but less damaging. However, the modern engine has far less tolerance, with its aluminum blocks and, often, aluminum heads.

Overheating has blown out many head gaskets. Some develop cracks and these are not cheap repairs. Just like the gas meter, we should also be vigilant in watching that temperature gauge. Overheating is one way to wreck a car and this is not something like having a flat tire or broken taillight. The damage can affect the whole engine.

Why cooling engine is necessary

Internal combustion engines, like the one inside your car, create friction. Even with the best motor oils, which help reduce the friction, the engine still produces a vast amount of heat from friction. Heat from friction is the enemy of just about any type of engine. It is the job of your engine's cooling system to get rid of that heat as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The car's cooling system is composed basically of a radiator, fan, water pump, thermostat, a sensor or two, an overflow tank, water, coolant and a series of belts, clamps and hoses to connect it all together and make it run. A damage from any of these components may contribute to your engine's overheating.

The system works by directing fluid past the hottest parts of your engine (the cylinder heads and valves), then redirecting that fluid out to the radiator, where the heat collected from the cylinder heads gets dissipated into the cooler atmosphere. Then the whole process begins again.

The fluid within your car's cooling system contains both water and coolant. The coolant portion (consisting of a green fluid that contains ethylene glycol) is the chemical that extends the boiling point of water, making it ideal for use in automotive radiators while inhibiting rust in the process.

What to do in case of overheating

Overheating the engine can cause extensive damage. The best option is to pull to the side of the road, and let it idle (do not give it a fast idle—that only worked in the days before electric fans) and, if that does not seem to be working, shut it off.

Sometimes overheating was simply due to environmental conditions like driving in very hot weather or while climbing up a major hill while towing something. You might let the car cool down, refill the radiator with coolant (if necessary) and continue driving.

But if the car continues to overheat, pull over and shut off the engine. If this is impossible like when your car has stopped already, activate the emergency lights and get your warning triangle and position them in such a way that incoming vehicles will notice you and the car.

Stick your nose under the car and see if there's any fluid on the ground. If there are green or pink or some other strange color dripping, it could indicate leakage from your radiator.

Never open your cooling system to add fluid when the system is still warm. It's best to let it cool for some time. Not only are the contents scalding hot, they're also under incredible pressure. Wait for a couple of minutes, get a rag and carefully open the lid to the plastic overflow reservoir. If it's empty, fill it up with water. If there's fluid in there, you may have something more serious going on with the engine.

If the radiator fan kicks in but the temp continues to climb, you may have a bad thermostat. If it gets near the red and the fan doesn't kick in, you most likely have a bad sensor. Turn off the engine and let it cool, find the wire that runs from the fan to the engine (it's best to disconnect the battery first), and remove the sensor. These signs require a mechanic's assistance.

If you're close to home or any shop, close the hood and gently nurse your car in that direction. If you're in the middle of the highway, wait for the wrecker, or call somebody to assist you. This is the best reason you shouldn't leave your phone behind when you drive.

Of course like in any situation, the best advice is still precaution. You can avoid these things if you just take a closer look at your car. By checking everything (tire pressure, battery, water, brake fluids, etc.), you can avoid misfortunes like stalling because of overheated engine.

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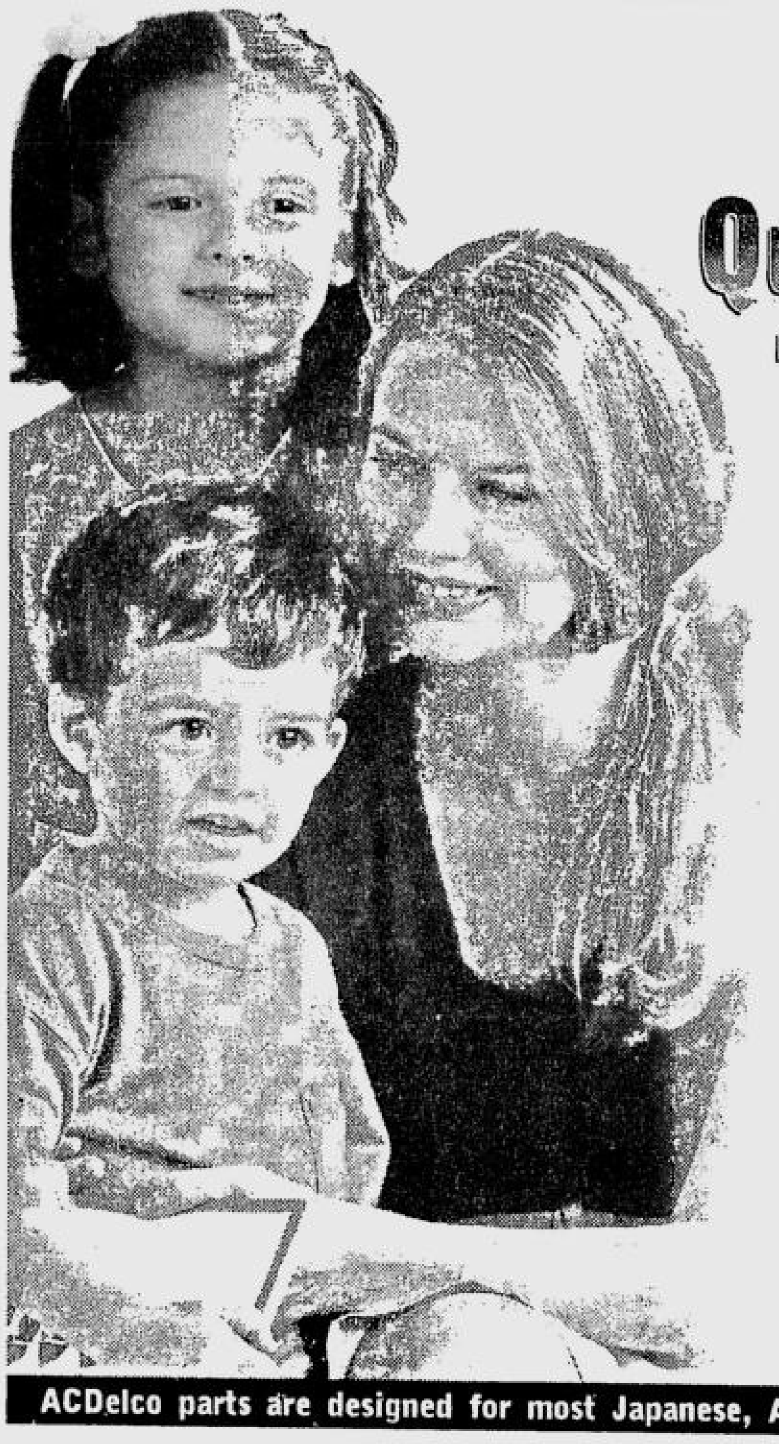

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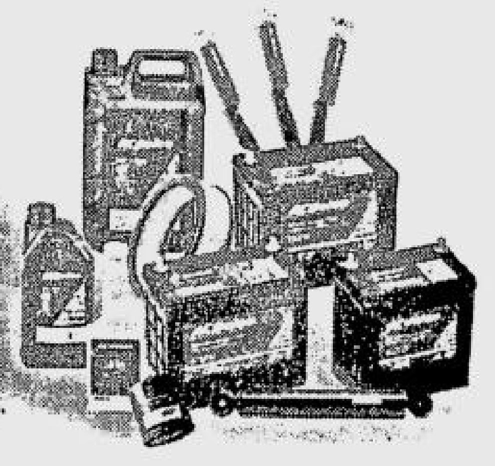

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Power mode selector switch
Located to the left of the gear selector, this switch allows the driver to shift in either the "P" or the "N" mode. In the "P" mode, the transmission will delay its shift points. This allows the vehicle to rev higher, and downshift quicker when the accelerator is depressed. Under "N", the transmission will shift at the regular shift points, usually about 3,000 rpm, depending on the model. This setting maximizes fuel economy.

Micron air filter
Filters out dust, dirt, and pollen from the ventillation system, helping keep the cabin air fresh.

Direct Ignition system
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines feature coil over plug technology, which reduces maintenace costs by eliminating the need for a distributor cap and ignition wires. Direct ignition helps increase engine efficiency and performance.

Strut tower brace
A thick steel bar over the engine acts as a body stiffener by increasing torsional rigidity and reducing body flex.

Shift-on-the fly four-wheel Drive
A shift-on-the-fly system with two speed transfer case allows drivers to shift between 2wd high and 4wd high at any speed up to 60 mph while travelling in a straight line. There is no need to stop, reverse, or lock hubs.

Multi-reflector headlamps
Besides being visually appealing, these headlamps produce a cleaner, more controlled beam for better night vision.

Liquid filled motor mounts
Hydraulically tuned to help cancel the noise and vibrations produced by the engine, these motor mounts help ensure a quieter cabin.

Chassis to body mounts.
Numerous energy absorbing rubber chassis to body mounts are placed on top of the ladder box frame, and below the body. They help keep road noise and vibration out of the passenger cabin, ensuring a quiet, smooth ride.

Two-speed tranfer case
Allows the driver to select 4wd low, used for serious off road driving, such as ascending or descending steep hills, sand, or mud.

Timing chain
The Suzuki 2.5 liter V6, 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engines are designed with dual overhead cams and a two-stage timing chain for better performance. The timing chain, developed from Suzuki motorcycle technology, is self lubricating, self adjusting, and requires no maintenance.

Full frame with crumple zones
The full ladder frame with boxed rails is made of high tensile steel, and features seven cross-members for additional support and rigidity. This gives the entire Vitara line a strong foundation for vehicle.

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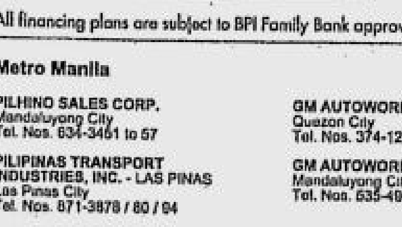

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HONDA CIVIC 1.5 LXi

When value matters more than displacement

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

HONESTLY, it's hard to find fault with the Honda Civic. Its critics may call it boring, dull, unattractive, or downright ugly. Unfair statements to say the least. Some say it is characterless, departing from the polished curves and sleek lines of its predecessor. Still, others claim it is too European; too BMW-like. Maybe. Speed fans say it lacks the engine bay space to fit in a decent set of headers or a turbocharger. Then there are those who say it is overengineered. These observations are a mouthful to mumble about an automobile, which in whatever form, consistently dominates the local passenger car segment.

HONDA Civic1.5 LXi

Will a 100 cc matter?

Raymond: On the road you feel it in the seat of your pants. The power and torque charts show major differences a 100 cc makes in the powerband at midrange to high end.

Tessa: You're talking about maximum power of 110 ps versus maximum torque of 13.8 kg, right? Could you be more specific and "layman" about it?

Raymond: Just for the exercise, a non-VTEC 1.5 Honda engine has16-valves and programmed fuel injection with an improved ignition system. Power figures in at 110 ps at 5,800 rpm and torque at 13.8 kg-m at 4,200 rpm. What do Civic owners say about that?

Arman Que (car trader): That is about 20 ps lower than the VTi but amazingly its torque is only 10 kg-meters less than the perkier VTEC at a lower rev range.

Tessa: So does that mean a VTi is faster than an LXi?

Raymond: The LXi is fast but never furious. Its reworked suspension does away with the complexity of double wishbones upfront and is keen on attacking bends. I noticed the well-controlled body roll, the ability to vary its pace effectively and point to where it needs to go effortlessly.

Tessa: Is this short of saying that a VTi is fast and furious?

Raymond: I like the taut and responsive steering and the general cabin ergonomics. Except for the clutch, which feels a bit too stiff, pedals are great and the shifter is spot on. Aircon controls are great, with those back-to-basic knobs but the radio is a bit too complicated for while-driving-adjustments.

A lot of sense

Tim Barletta (machine shop owner): For me, the choice wasn't difficult. I only had enough money for the 1.5. But I know I made the right choice. It's easier to maintain, there are fewer complications, but I get the same Honda handling as the VTi. *'Yun nga lang walang* ABS (It doesn't have ABS).

Raymond: But if you are badge conscious, will you consider the VTi?

Alex M. (advertising executive): I think it doesn't make sense to get a Civic VTi, if the LXi can deliver the same in terms of value and if power is not a real consideration. I already have a 1997 VTi, and I took the step down to get an LXi because in the final analysis, I don't need all the power the VTEC engine was making to travel from Dasmariñas in Cavite to Makati daily.

Raymond: Should I agree?

Tessa: I think that makes a lot of sense. However, one must remember that the letters V-T-and lower case "I" mean power in big bold letters.

Raymond: Yeah, as in zip-zang-zoom!

Power not really needed

Raymond: Having been lambasted and called a moron for driving at speeds in excess of 100 kph, let me call your attention to this vast, open strip of concrete in between plane hangars at Clark.

Tessa: You don't really have to be affected if once in a while you would be called a moron or a road idiot by a reader or by another motoring reporter who reads your stuff. Like us, they are entitled to their opinion. At least, for the record, you do your speed tests not on the streets but on the strip (hmm .. sounds familiar). Okay, so this is your playground, huh?

Raymond: Sometime ago I directed a photo shoot here and was able to drive the Chevrolet Suburban at 160 kph at this unused portion of the airport, not in public roads. Today, I do the same for the Honda Civic LXi, which quickly delivers 145 kph on the speedometer. Does that qualify me to be a road idiot?

Tessa: Allow yourself to be called one as many other test drivers in the motoring industry who would need to test the power of a vehicle because they owe it to their readers and to themselves. The important thing here is you don't do it on places where it would endanger lives—humans or animals—and property. Right, kid?

Raymond: And no, my handsome boys are not with me, they never are when I do performance tests, negating the need for the DSWD to "cane my ass."

MOTORISTS would like this car's taut and responsive steering as well as its general cabin ergonomics.

Tessa: No "ass caning" needed. I may sound preachy but we need road watchdogs in our country. One road watchdog who commented about your Chevy test, though, needs to "watch" his words too and stick to raising issues he has against the many motoring reporters or journalists he mentioned instead of sending "power tripping or bullying words." Calling test-drivers "morons" could be mistaken as a personal attack and taint one's noble intention. The important thing, Raymond, is you have designated "race-tracks" where you do the tests. So now, let's get back to car power. What was that again?

Andrea Bernabe (bank manager): You don't need too much power when you do most of your driving in the city anyway. In out-of-town trips the power is more than enough for overtaking maneuvers and uphill climbs to Nagcarlan that I frequently make.

Percy Mateo (auto repair shop owner): My personal experience with my LXi is that you can push it if you want to but there is really no need for that. My only gripe is that you need to rev it beyond 1,000 rpm in first gear to get a smooth start in first gear.

Raymond: I noticed that too. It's immensely irritating, especially when you stall the engine out in the middle of traffic.

Tessa: I hate to agree with you guys but I also struggle to get a smooth start on heavy city traffic jam. Feature- for-feature, almost a VTi.

Macy Felix (Honda sales executive): Buyers are attracted to the LXi's feature per feature. Take a look at the comparison charts for available features and you'll see that the only things unavailable in the LXi are the SRS, ABS, EBD (acronyms for airbags, antilock brakes and electronic brake force distribution system).

Raymond: *Oo nga ano!* Everything is the same—from cubbyholes, to grab rails, to power windows to seat material. The LXi even has something the VTi doesn't have—a trunk lid indicator!

Tessa: It also doesn't have power side mirrors. And the vanity mirror is very basic. But thankfully no tacky woodgrain panels that you and I abhor a lot.

Carlos Gando (copywriter): And the radio can't play CDs.

Thess Litonjua (accountant): One can do away with the fancy things inside. *Ang kailangan lang ay 'yung* (What it needs are) basics and the spaciousness. I like the legroom and headroom and the flat floor that makes it so roomy. Cabin space is very usable.

Tessa: *Sabi nila* (They say) the Corolla is bigger inside.

Carlos Gando: In the world of automotive brochures, remember that claims can be misleading. Some cars may claim as much as 100 cm more space, but you find all that in the dashboard, making it useless.

Raymond: Yeah! And if one car happens to be 1 cm bigger, then the advertising copy says something like "the biggest in its class!"

Tessa: talk about "differences."

Safety and styling

Raymond: Despite the lack of SRS, ABS and EBD, the Lxi is made safe courtesy of Honda's G-Force Control technology.

Tessa: And what does that do?

Raymond: Hmmm...Honda's online brochure says it "moderates the force of impact...creating a survival zone...that provides unparalleled protection from every direction," But I wouldn't want to try it out myself. Lest someone earns the right to call me "flip and ignorant."

Tessa: Do you like the styling?

Raymond: Yes. Even if I must admit it does not have the groomed, ground-hugging stance of the last model. Its rather conservative, more traditional lines end up providing more room inside while maintaining narrow proportions outside.

Jim Aila: Styling is very subjective. And even if at first I did not like the styling as much, I have not regretted buying the 2001 LXi, which is my first Honda.

Tessa: Many thanks to our Honda LXi owners for their comments.

Raymond: And for the coffee and bagels!

In conclusion

We can't help but agree with Honda's Civic LXi owners that displacement matters little in the case of this 1.5-liter car. At a price of P688,000 for the manual transmission, it is, peso-for-peso, definitely one well-engineered car.

The Civic LXi gets a well deserved **8.5 out of 10** points. Though not as richly equipped as say the offerings from Nissan and Mitsubishi, it gets top honors for engine build quality.

Raters are divided about styling, with the majority agreeing that it shares the heritage of the previous car. Amazingly, there was no low rating about interior content, or the lack of it such as the absence of power side mirrors.

Most raters say they can live without this and other conveniences. "After all," says one female owner, "you don't use the side mirror to put on your make-up." What a way to sum up value over displacement!

Wrong traffic signs; Revo's No. 1

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

I DROVE home to my hometown in Pangasinan this weekend and saw once more the utter neglect of the North Diversion Road. The roads are littered with potholes as usual.

But what takes the cake is the (usual) absence of patrol cars that are supposed to restore order in the express(?)way.

The most common problem that is really not a problem at all if only enforcers are around to en-force the law is the stubbornness of drivers driving slow-moving vehicles to stay on the right lane instead of sticking it out on the left (fast) lane.

The speed sign says: 60 kph as minimum speed, and 100 kph as maximum speed.

Those at speeds of 60 kph should stay right, at 100 kph left.

Another sign says: "*Mabagal na sasakyan, manatili sa kanan.*" In English: "Slow-moving vehicles should stay right."

And I thought only drivers of buses and jeepneys in Metro Manila do not know how to read; or, simply, they ignore traffic signs?

Turns out drivers taking the North Express(?)way either do not know how to read or ignore traffic signs posted along the highway.

But wait a minute, fellas. Maybe, it's the North Express(?)way officials who are the culprits after all. They made the wrong signs. The correct one should have read: "*Mabagal na sasakyan, manatili sa kaliwa.*"

That way, the blowing of horns when one is set to overtake will be totally eradicated at the express(?)way. The blood rising to hypertension attack levels will also be drastically reduced.

* * *

Revo, that ever reliable ride of some of my friends, has taken the No. 1 position as the country's best-selling AUV. It complements "brother" Corolla Altis' feat of maintaining its No. 1 position for passenger car in its category, a standing which the Altis gained starting in August.

But Honda has remained unbeaten in the overall total passenger cars sold for the year, mainly because of its monstrous showing in the first six months of the year.

Cheers to Toyota's steady climb to the top anew. Same with Honda, whose starting-grid position has remained rock-solid all these years.

* * *

Yes, that should be another great idea. President Macapagal declaring the days from Dec. 25 to Jan. 2 as public holidays will make this nation less angry—and hungry, too. The long vacation will afford our people to have peace with themselves a little longer, longer than the five-day vacation given us during the last All Saints' Day furlough.

Longer vacations mean lesser headaches and troubles in the big city while giving the people the luxury of spending time with their family in a season specifically allotted anyway to renewing ties with family and friends in the land of their roots. Rediscovering our places of birth reunites us with the spirit that has gunned up our desire to live in a better world.

Actually, a long vacation will spur the economy in more ways than one. For one, hotels will brim with occupants as vacationers will jockey for rooms in a bid to escape the heat of the city. For another, the provinces will experience an extra boom in business—from exotic foods to handicrafts sold in bulk, and trips to hitherto unexplored beaches, parks and other forest treasures that abound in the countryside.

So, my advice: Go for it, Madame President. Give us that one long vacation once more. And allow yourself, too, the luxury of a little respite from the gnawing pressure of day-to-day governance.

* * *

Dayong, the household's resident artist who is deputy coach to Leo Austria in the Shark Energy Drink basketball team, has fallen in love with the Honda VTEC-3.

"It's a superbly conditioned car," he said. "I believe it should be a nice buy."

He saw one hitch, though.

"A little expensive," he said.

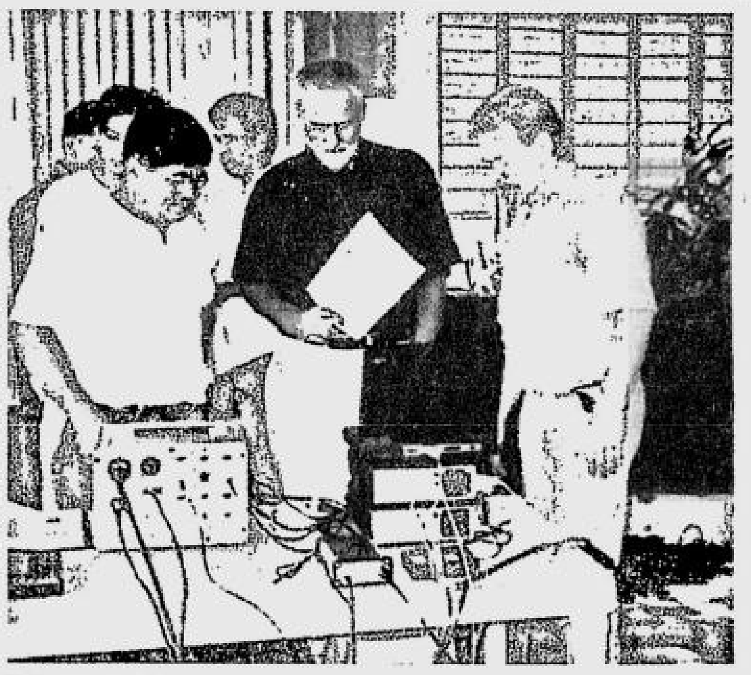
Whaddaya think, Tin Tin?

By the way, Honda's Tin Tin Reyes turned a new leaf on Nov. 8. There was a party, yes. But exclusive it was.

Only her parents were invited.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Slow down and pull over when an ambulance is behind you. The life you save may be yours.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In support of the Clean Air Act, Mancor Industries Inc. applied for the accreditation of the Hermann Gas Analyzer and Opacimeter. Representing Mancor are its German partners from Hermann Electronics—Harald Unger (center), international operations manager, and Martin Baum (right), sales director. Also shown is engineer Art Bongco, Science Research Specialist II of the DENR.

Pioneer thrills in-car audio/video system aficionados

PIONEER, the leader in audio and video technology and optical video disc innovation, has introduced the latest in its range of futuristic and compact DVD players for automobiles. Propelling in-car audio-visual entertainment to a new level, the new AVX-P7300DVD boasts of a fully motorized, display angle adjustable LCD color screen, and a built-in MPEG 2/1 decoder.

Next big thing for autos

Transforming a car into a mobile theater or game arcade for enjoyment is a breeze with the new AVX-P7300DVD. Pioneer has added a sophisticated touch to this sleek system with a fully motorized 7-inch wide TFT active matrix LCD color screen that is adjustable for optimal viewing comfort.

The AVX-P7300DVD presents a simple car audio/video system solution with a DVD and monitor combination. Offering mobile music and movie, this DVD/VCD/CD player provides great entertainment when a user is out with family and friends, especially during a long cross-country drive.

Designed to deliver sharp and better-contrasted pictures, Pioneer's new LCD screens are coated with AGLR (anti-glare, low reflection). This special coating diffuses external light and suppresses the glare. The Auto Dimmer control also automatically adjusts the display brightness, to keep it in sync with external light.

Exceptional sound quality

Optimizing your viewing pleasure in style, a built-in MPEG 2/1 decoder is also included in this sleek system. Equipped with 96kHz/24-bit DAC sampling frequency and quantization, the system delivers outstandingly pristine sound. This beauty also comes complete with an optical digital output for audio-visual entertainment master unit delivering brilliant 5.1 channel surround (DTS/Dolby Digital) effects that create an acoustic environment with the reproduction of supreme, dramatic surround sound.

For greater flexibility, the IP-bus head unit and IP-bus input/output in the AVX-P7300DVD allows connection of the system to the multichannel audio/visual master unit and TV tuner for the most dynamic sound experience. Passengers can also enjoy uninterrupted entertainment as the DVD video output for the rear facilitates relaying of signals to the separate monitor in the rear.

For enhanced picture quality, the RGB output is incorporated in the AVX-P7300DVD, enabling transmitted mixed signals to be sent separately and reducing disruptive noise, while converging at the display to deliver realistic images.

Pioneer has also revolutionized head unit security with the invention of a theft-deterrent system, the Detachable Face Security with flashing LED. This special feature enables users to simply remove the front panel of the head unit and slip it into a protective case. The unit's sensitive electronics remain protected leaving what would seem like an inconspicuous black box in the dash.

The remote control that is available with-the AVX-P7300DVD, is a great accessory for manipulating both the DVD/VCD/CD player and the LCD monitor.

Unlike the home DVD systems, the car audio/video systems are exclusively geared up to withstand the harsh mobile environment, since they are antidust and capable of resisting heat and vibration.

Also on the car audio/video system launch pad are three other models AVX-P7300CD and AVX-7300.

The new Pioneer DVD player is available at your nearest authorized Pioneer dealers.

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Hint: Check out *Motoring Section* on Thursday, Nov. 15 for Inquirer's My Wishbox.

Toyota dominates October vehicle sales

JUDGING by the way the automotive sales are going, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is set to close the year 2001 as the top automaker in the country. The latest figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) as of October show Toyota leading the way with 1,919 units sold for the month bringing its total overall sales to 16,291 units for an estimated 26 percent market share.

Trailing TMP is Mitsubishi Motors, which managed to record the second highest sales output for the month with 1,655 units, bringing its total sales output for the year to 14,189 units. Coming in third is Isuzu with sales of 893 units for the month of October to jack up its year-to-date sales to 8,021 units.

Toyota's continuous growth is attributed to the strong showing of its flagship models, the New Corolla Altis and the Tamaraw FX Revo, which are both the top sellers in their respective categories, based on the same Campi report.

The New Corolla Altis launched last July continues to be a big draw for buyers, once again making it the best selling passenger car model for the month. The Altis reported sales of 388 units last month, besting its rival, the Honda Civic, which managed to sell a total of 368 units. Rounding out the top three is another Honda, the City came out with a sales output of 320 units for the month of October.

Honda, however, was able to wrest back the No. 1 position in the PC segment by coming up with a total PC sales output of 710 units by virtue of the strong sales of the City that combined with sales of the Civic. Toyota was pushed back to second place with 585 units sold for the month while Nissan settled for third place with 267 units sold.

The same story holds true in the year-to-date figures as Honda is still ahead with a total of 6,602 units sold from January to October of this year translating to a 33 percent sales share. Toyota, led by the new Altis, follows with sales of 4,563 units for an estimated 23 percent market share. Nissan rounds out the top three with its year-to-date total output of 3,032 for an estimated 15 percent of the total PC market.

In the commercial vehicle (CV) segment, Mitsubishi topped sales last month with 1,478 units sold bringing its total CV sales to 11,878 units for the first 10 months. Toyota is in second place with sales of 1,334 for October, pushing its year-to-date total to 11,728 units with Isuzu rounding out the top three with 893 units sold to end up with 8,021 units sold for the year.

The Toyota Tamaraw FX Revo continues its domination of the AUV segment by coming up with a total sales output of 1,021 units for the month to lead the AUV segment, as well as the whole commercial vehicle category. It outsold the new Adventure, which reported sales of 926 units last month. The new Isuzu Hilander completes the top three positions in the AUV category with sales of 635 units.

MORE STRAIN

China WTO entry squeezes Southeast Asia

W.T.O
반대!
쌀개방 반대!

FARMERS carry an Uncle Sam effigy during an anti-WTO rally near the National Assembly in Seoul. About 10,000 farmers protested a US-led attempt to launch a new global talk to reduce government subsidies and trade barriers for farm imports. The signs read, "Oppose WTO and Rice Imports." AP

SINGAPORE—China's entry into the global trading community next month will place even more strain on Southeast Asia, already reeling from the worldwide downturn and repercussions of the September attacks in the United States, research reports said.

Unlike Hong Kong and Taiwan, which are set to gain from Beijing's formal accession into the World Trade Organization, on Dec. 11, Southeast Asia is seen as a loser in the medium term on the currency and foreign investment fronts, the reports said.

"The most obvious challenge to Southeast Asia will be investment," Southeast Asia's biggest lender, DBS Bank, said in a report this week.

"Taking the blame here is China's twin allure of cheap and abundant labor, coupled with the promise of a huge domestic market," the Singapore-based bank said.

According to DBS, Southeast Asia's share of the foreign direct investment that flowed into the region outside Japan was a paltry 8.6 percent in 2000, compared with the 80-percent share held jointly by China and its territory, Hong Kong.

Southeast Asia's declining FDI share—it had 33.5 percent in 1996—is also a reflection of the region's failure to improve its financial systems after the 1997-98 crisis, DBS Bank said.

"Investors are still wary the region is still licking its wounds from the Asian crisis, and that not enough progress has been made on reforms to rehabilitate weak financial systems," the bank said.

"For Southeast Asia, the message is simple. The room for complacency is getting narrower. Time to get back on the path of reforms."

On the currency front, US investment bank JP Morgan said the Thai baht and Indonesian rupiah were likely to be Asia's biggest losers.

It said "the Thai baht will face some similar pressures to the rupiah following China's WTO entry as both trade and FDI inflows are likely to be lower."

Thailand is, however, expected to fare better than Indonesia, the US company said, as "Thailand's government is perceived to exert a more stable influence on local markets, and because markets themselves are relatively more open and liquid."

Turning to Hong Kong, JP Morgan said the territory would reap the benefits of China's WTO membership over the next five years.

"Its merchandise trade balance is unlikely to see great changes as certain losses to the mainland in apparel production are offset by a rise in the SAR's (Special Administrative Region) general reexport business," it said.

"But the services balance of its current account can be expected to improve dramatically, by a margin in the region of US$10 billion (or 50 percent from current levels) on the back of higher mainland demand for professional services," JP Morgan said.

There are still bright spots for Southeast Asia despite the challenges posed by the world's most populous entry into the mainstream of international commerce.

Apart from expanding trade with China, the region can also gain from the opening of Chinese markets, as Beijing complies with the trading rules that come with its WTO membership.

"On a positive note, China is an emerging export market for Southeast Asia," DBS Bank said, pointing out that the region's trade surplus with China expanded six-fold to $5.9 billion between 1997 and 2000.

"The opening of the Chinese markets with WTO entry would also likely to benefit the region," DBS Bank said.

The Southeast Asian region is comprised of 10 countries—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*

China to split Asian currencies further

SINGAPORE—China's entry into the World Trade Organization will further split Asian currencies, with those of Greater China, like the Taiwan and Hong Kong dollars, likely to benefit, while most South and Southeast Asian currencies could lose out, analysts say.

Although the long-term impact of China's WTO accession should be positive for most countries, in the medium term, countries such as India, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and, to a lesser extent, Singapore could hear that giant sucking sound as investment leaves the area.

However, the WTO fallout is more likely to unfold in coming years and does not necessarily mean big foreign exchange moves in weeks or months, they say.

"Focusing on spillover from changes in capital and current account flow trends, we believe 'Greater China' currencies (the Taiwan and Hong Kong dollars) will be the biggest regional winners," said Rebecca Patterson, currency strategist at JP Morgan in Singapore.

"Southeast Asia is expected to be a small net loser in the near-to-medium term, both in terms of trade and foreign direct investment. Exports from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia compete directly with China in many areas," Patterson said.

These Southeast Asian countries are also much less attractive for FDI either because of their much smaller domestic markets or their perceived political instability.

Analysts estimate that FDI inflows to China could accelerate sharply to reach $60 billion to $65 billion in 2005 from around $46 billion expected for this year, and some of that could come at the expense of potential investment in the rest of the region.

"The move could add to the deflationary pressure that most countries in Southeast Asia have felt during the rise of China in the past five years," said Simon Flint, currency strategist at Bank of America in Singapore. *Reuters*

Opec turns down oil taps, but rivals resist

VIENNA—Opec oil exporters were finalizing Wednesday a fourth deep output cutback of the year despite scant signs from rival producers that they will respond in kind to help rescue sagging global crude prices.

Anxious energy chiefs from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed here that they should skim at least another 1 million barrels a day from supply to put a floor under weak oil prices.

"Everybody agrees on more than 1 million" barrels a day, said Chakib Khelil, president of Opec, which produces around 40 percent of global oil output.

A final decision on the exact amount of the cutback was expected Wednesday afternoon.

But several of the 11 countries in the oil exporters cartel are uneasy about turning down the taps again when other independent crude producers such as Mexico, Norway and Russia are showing no signs of following suit.

Opec has already cut output by more than 13 percent this year, and the fear is that instead of rescuing prices, the Opec cutback would be usurped by non-Opec countries eager to pump their volumes to boost market share.

"A cut without them (non-Opec) would not help and would be useless," said Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah. "I am frightened they will push us into a price war which will be disastrous for everyone."

Opec is being forced to act because crude prices have tumbled around 25 percent since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Prices fell last week to two-year lows, eating into revenues of Opec countries, many of which rely heavily on oil exports. *Reuters*

WTO makes significant progress on agriculture

DOHA, Qatar—World Trade Organization ministers made significant progress on agriculture early Wednesday but stalemate remained on social matters, a source close to the marathon talks said.

The thorny problem of farm export subsidies could be solved with the addition of a restriction to the term "phasing out," which is opposed by the European Union.

Negotiators proposed adding the phrase "not prejudging of an outcome of the negotiations," a formula that should satisfy the European Union, which feared that "phasing out" would simply mean an end to the subsidies.

However, discussions on integrating a social dimension into trade, fiercely opposed by India and several developing countries, remained blocked, and the source described this failure to make progress as potentially an "absolute deal-breaker."

The exhausted ministers pressed on with negotiations into the early hours Wednesday to shift entrenched positions blocking the way to a deal on expanded global trade as the WTO conference wound down. *AFP*

Mitsubishi wallows in red

TOKYO—Japan's Mitsubishi Motors. Corp. said Wednesday that it suffered a net loss in the six months to September of 31.5 billion yen ($262 million) due to sluggish demand overseas and tough competition at home.

But the losses were shallower than last year when the troubled automaker incurred an interim loss of 75.6 billion yen on extraordinary costs after a recall scandal and restructuring expenses.

Its pre-tax loss this first half came to 27.4 billion yen compared with 29.5 billion yen last year, on revenue of 1,532.6 billion yen—a 0.6-percent slide.

"The world economy stopped growing overall during the first half of fiscal 2001 as the United States appeared to be entering a recession and with a slowdown in the Asian economies," Mitsubishi Motors said in a statement. *AFP*

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Lucio Tan ready to sign PNB deal this week

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO AND ELENA R. TORRIJOS

TAIPAN Lucio Tan yesterday said he was ready to sign this week the debt-to-equity agreement with the government on Philippine National Bank unless new issues would be raised by the Macapagal administration that could delay the deal.

Tan issued the statement in an interview at the sidelines of yesterday's 27th Philippine Business Conference.

Tan, however, was not clear on whether or not the document that he was prepared to sign this week was the final term sheet or the agreement. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the other day that the signing of the term sheet would be made ahead of the agreement.

Tan's group and the government also came up with a joint statement yesterday to assure the public that the two groups have agreed on major items already involving the conversion into equity of the State's P25 billion in advances to the country's sixth largest bank.

"Once the remaining issues have been resolved, the parties agreed to execute a detailed term sheet, which shall be the basis for the execution of the memorandum of agreement," the statement said.

Of the P25 billion, the bank has so far paid P1.1 billion to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Of the P25 billion extended to PNB in October 2000, P15 billion came from the central bank and P10 billion from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said in an interview that apart from the P40 per share conversion price that would convert P7.8 billion worth of PNB debts into government equity, the two groups have agreed on the following:

- that PNB would issue new shares to build up the government's share from 16 percent to 44.98 percent while Tan would consequently dilute his stake from 67 percent to 44.98 percent;
- that the government would settle up to P10 billion of its advances from PNB;
- that the remaining P6.1 billion would be restructured by the BSP over a 10-year period with an interest rate of one percent over the 91-day treasury bill rate.

On management control, Nazareno said the two groups have agreed to nominate one independent director each and appoint four representatives each to the 11-member board.

The government would nominate the names for chair, chair of the executive committee, president, chief financial officer, and corporate secretary while Tan would choose from among the names given.

The taipan, in turn, would nominate the general counsel, assistant corporate secretary, and deputy chief finance officer while the government would select from the list.

Both groups have also agreed in principle to an exit mechanism wherein the government and Tan would sell their combined shares jointly at an appropriate time. But the terms and mechanics of the joint sale deemed essential to the agreement are still being threshed out.

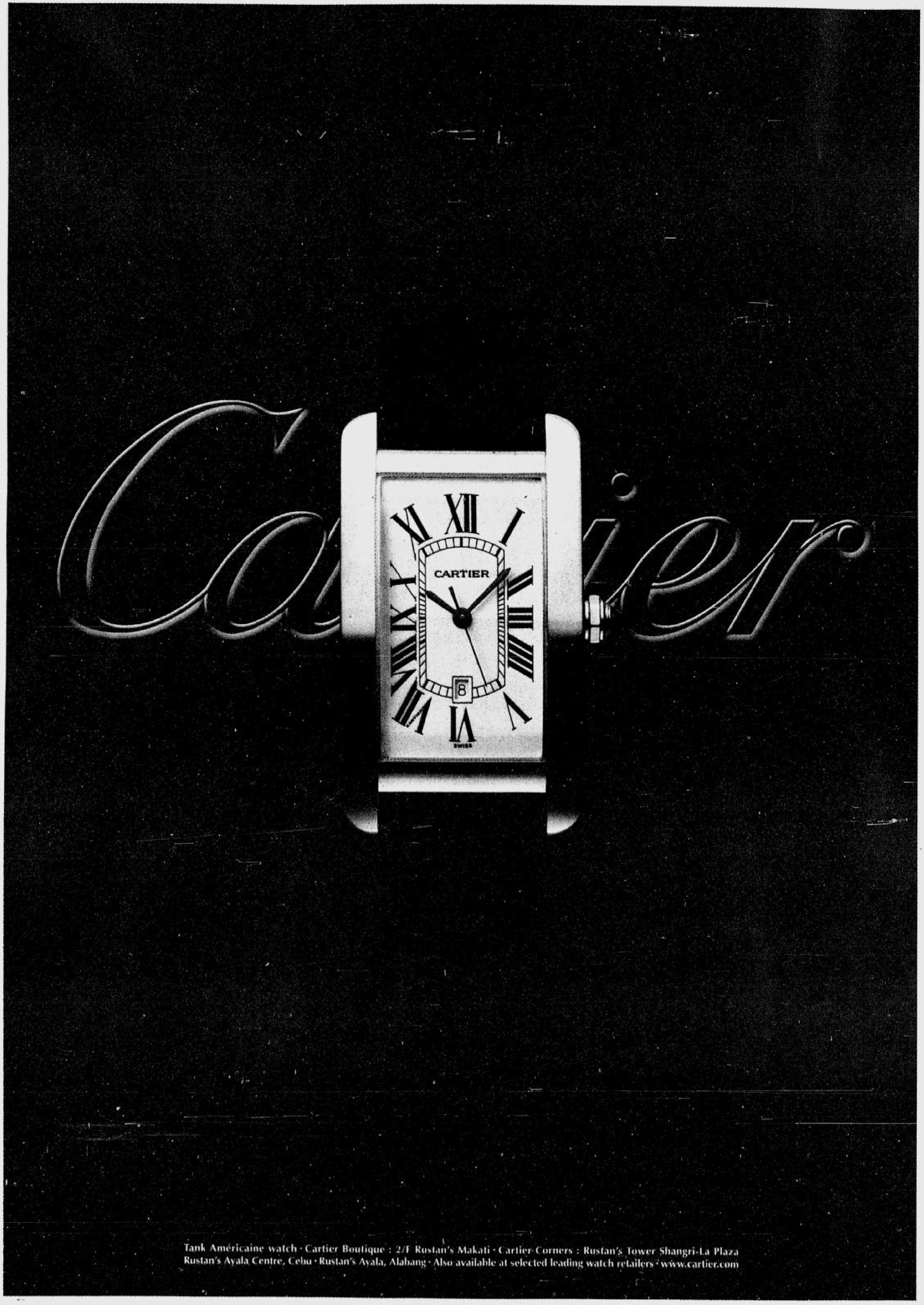
"We have to have a determination of how the shares would be priced in the future. We have no timetable for the joint sale but we hope to do it in two to three years," Nazareno said.

The PDIC president said that once the rehabilitation of PNB starts, he would give up his post in the bank as chair.

Nazareno also said that the bank would have to call a special stockholders' meeting after the MOA was signed to seek the approval of the reduction of PNB's par value to P40 each from P60 per share.

He said the reduction in par value or the so-called "quasi-reorganization" also needs the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the go-ahead of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Nazareno said that BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who sits in the PDIC board, was already informed of recent developments in PNB. Camacho earlier said that the approval of the central bank, the justice department, and Malacanang have to be secured before the final agreement was signed.



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Gov't open to revising 2001 growth targets

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the government was open to further revising downward its growth forecast this year if the gross domestic product would only expand by 2 to 2.2 percent in the third quarter.

Canlas, who also heads the National Economic and Development Authority, said the Macapagal administration might agree to lower its GDP growth projection this year to slightly below 3 percent from an already revised 3.3 percent.

The government had changed this year's target and downgraded GDP growth forecast to a range of 3.3 to 3.8 percent from a range of 3.8 to 4.3 percent. The administration is expecting to hit at least the lower end of its target.

Still, the economic planning chief maintained that the economy would likely grow by 2.8 percent during the third quarter. He cited an improved employment data, stronger electricity sales, and growth in sectors like retail trade, telecommunications and other services.

"Although the third quarter is relatively the weakest quarter, we have leading indicators to show that we could grow by at least 2.8 percent. But if the third quarter growth falls to 2 to 2.2 percent, we may have to revise our target," Canlas told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the 27th Philippine Business Conference.

He also noted that next year's growth numbers were not cast in stone and would have to be revisited each time there were significant movements in the national income accounts.

"This year, we may just decide to wait for the actual numbers because all bets have been laid out and we still believe that our target is achievable. But for next year, the numbers would be revisited as national income accounts come along," Canlas said.

The inter-agency Development Budget and Coordinating Council had decided to downscale the growth targets next year to 4-4.5 percent for GDP and to 4.1-4.6 percent for gross national product.

The revision of next year's targets was made last month upon the request of Congress while it was evaluating the budget for next year. The government was originally targeting to hit a GDP growth of 4.3 to 4.8 percent and a GNP growth of 4.6 to 5.2 percent.

The inter-agency DBCC has also adjusted its export growth target to zero percent from 6 percent and the growth in imports to 3 percent from 7 percent. This year, the government believes exports would contract by 15 percent.

The inflation outlook for next year was maintained at 5 to 6 percent and local interest rate at a range of 10 to 11 percent.

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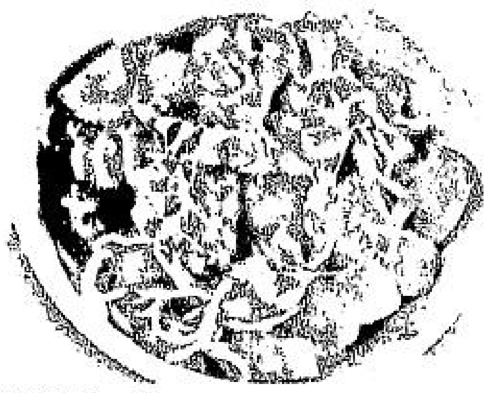
LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

This restaurant serves from 'pancit miki' to 'pad Thai,' seafood 'goreng' to Indian 'laksa,' yakisoba to fettuccine



INDIAN Mee Goreng

Long life times 10

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

SUITED to the fashionable mall in which it resides, the funky Ten Noodles serves traditional noodle dishes updated with modern touches. It is a veritable thesaurus of pasta.

LONG/ p.C6

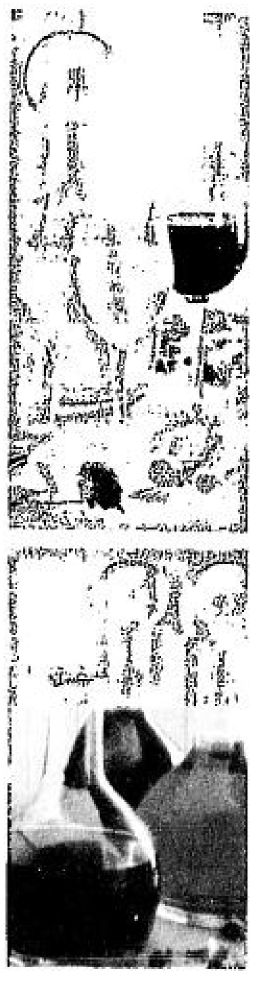
Wine festival at Mandarin

RALPH'S Wines and Spirits sponsors the biggest wine-tasting event in the country on Nov. 15, 6 p.m., during the "Grand Wine Experience" at the Mandarin Hotel, Manila.

A parade of over 250 wines from the best wineries and chateaux from 10 countries will be showcased for tasting. To complement the vintage, the Mandarin will prepare a wide array of delectable cuisine from different countries. For the first time, guests will get to taste and compare different wines from vineyards and chateaux from all over the world.

Special prizes will be raffled off. Prizes will be donated by Philips, Northwest Airlines, Rustan's, Starbucks, Shopwise, The Store Specialist, Philippine Wine Merchants, BestWorld Beverage Brands, Premier Wines, Lucky Strike, La Flor de la Isabela and Mild Seven. The embassies of the United States, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina are also participating.

Call Ralph's Wines and Spirits head office at 831-9876 or 513-9436, Philippine Wine Merchants, or visit any Ralph's Wine Shop at Mandarin Oriental Manila, Rustan's and Shopwise.



Happenings at the Festival
FESTIVE EPISODE 3
Party with TRUE FAITH
and Soulfood
"Keeping the FAITH with the 80's"
Nov. 17, 8 pm
3rd Level, Commerce Ave.!
ADMISSION IS FREE!
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
PEPSI
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST-ALABANG
Call Customer Service at 850-3514
www.festivalsupermall.com

SYLVIA CANCIO and FRIENDS!
2240 Pasong Tamo, Makati City (in front of La Fuerza)
Tel. Nos. 893-7537, 810-7196
November - December Schedule

November 17, Saturday 1:30 – 5:30 pm BASIC BAKING from measuring to presentation! Chiffon Cake: Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie P 1,200

November 19, Monday 1:30 – 4:30 pm PASTAS and MORE Homemade Pasta, Basic Tomato Sauce, Linguini Carbonara, Spaghetti Putanesca, Lasagna, Seafood Pasta, Penne a la Vodka P 900

November 20, Tuesday 1:30 – 4:30 pm PILIPINO COOKING 1 Kare-Kare, Pancit Lucban, Sizzling Sisig, Pilipino Fruit Salad P 750

November 21, 1:30 – 4:30 pm HOLIDAY COOKING 1 Chicken Liver Pate with Melba Toast, Pastel de Pollo, Cesar Salad, Chocolate Fondue and Cheese Fondue P 800

November 22, Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 pm PILIPINO COOKING 2 Twice Fried Adobo, Pancit Luglug, Laing, Mongo Leche Flan P 750

November 23, Friday 1:30 – 4:30 pm HOLIDAY COOKING 2 Canelones (2 kinds), Paella, Bone Marrow Canape, Tocino del Cielo P 800

November 24, Saturday 9–12 nn HOLIDAY FOOD – WRAPPING and PRESENTATION different gift-wrapping techniques applied to a variety of food items; Each one takes home a gift wrapped food basket of fresh flowers and assorted fruits P 1,800 (Inclusive of materials)

November 24, Saturday 1:30 – 6:00 pm Yeast Doughs Pan de Sal, Ensaimada, Espesyal, (Cheese and Ube), Commercial Ensaimada, Pear Walnut Bread, Dinner Rolls P 1,200

November 26, Monday 2–5 pm MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE with CHEF MAURO ARJONA Tanguigue Carpaccio, Spinach Ricotta and Parmesan Phyllo, Broiled Salmon with Herb Nut Crust in Creamy Pesto Sauce, Pepper Crusted Beef Medallion in Burgundy Sauce, Cannoli P 1, 200

November 27, Tuesday 1:30 – 4:30 pm PILIPINO COOKING 3 Chicken Relleno, Spaghetti with Aligui Sauce, Sotanghon Guisado Espesyal, Bibingka P 750

November 28, Wednesday 1:30 – 4:30 pm HOLIDAY COOKING 3 Crown Roast of Pork with Apple Stuffing, Tomates Rellenos, Pescado Mayonesa, Banana Chocolate Pudding P 800

November 29, Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 pm PILIPINO COOKING 4 Humba, Nilagpang Baka, Steam Fried Chicken, Bacolod Inasal, Ube Turron sa Langka P 750

December 1, Saturday, 9–12 nn EVERYDAY COOKING Pancake with Buttermilk, French Toast with Different Flavored Syrups, Japanese Tempura, Crispy Fried Chicken with Mushroom Sauce, Ham and Cheese Macaroni P 800

December 1, Saturday 1:30 – 5:00 pm SPECIAL BAKING 1 Death by Chocolate, Mango Tango, Mango Layer Cake, Caramel Cheesecake with Nut Crust P 1,000

December 3 Monday 2–5 pm ASIAN FUSION with CHEF MAURO ARJONA Salmon Belly Kebab, Chicken Pork Adobo, Canneloni, Grilled Catfish in Tamarind Soya Sauce, Boiled Chicken in Lemongrass and Tamarind Broth, Fresh Fruit Tempura with Chocolate Fondue and Ginger Jasmine Sauce P 1,200

December 4, Tuesday, 2–5 pm ANOTHER THANKSGIVING DINNER with CHEF ALEX BRUL Roast Turkey with Chestnut-Onion Stuffing, Pickled Baby Back Ribs, Braised Roast Beef, Dark and White Chocolate Mousse P 1,500

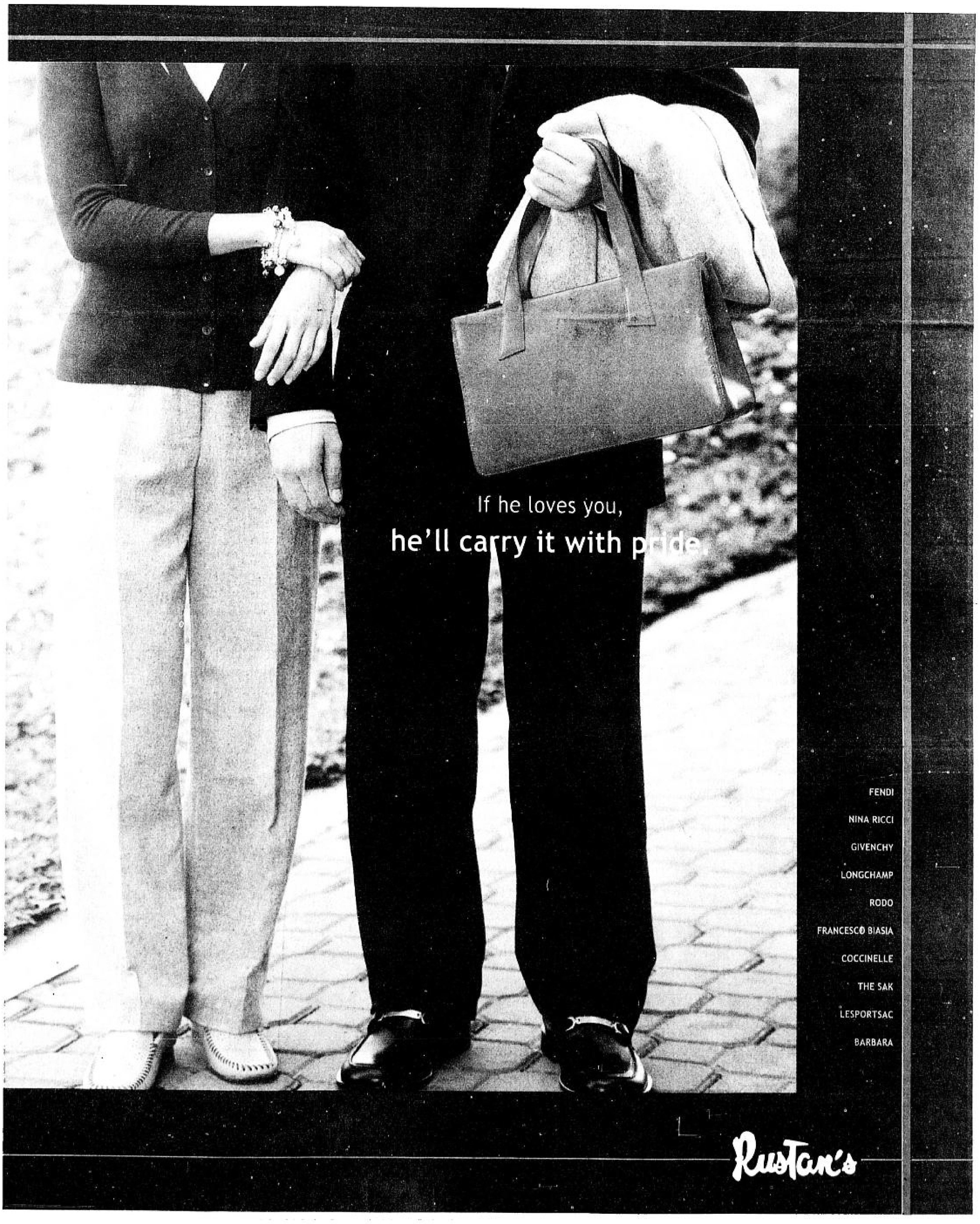
December 5, Wednesday, 1:30 – 4:30 pm HOLIDAY COOKING 4 Quickmelt Cheesesticks (3 kinds) Chicken Galantina, Fettucini Alfredo, Callos a la Madrilena. Natillas P 800

December 6, Thursday 1:30 – 5:00 pm HAM MAKING Learn how to cure, cook and roast your own ham for the holidays (3 versions). Completely Hands-On with individual take home. Bonus: Mapled Baked Beans P 1,800

December 7, Friday, 1:30 – 5:00 pm MORE BAKING 2 Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, Rum Pound Cake, Tiramisu, Baklava P 1,000

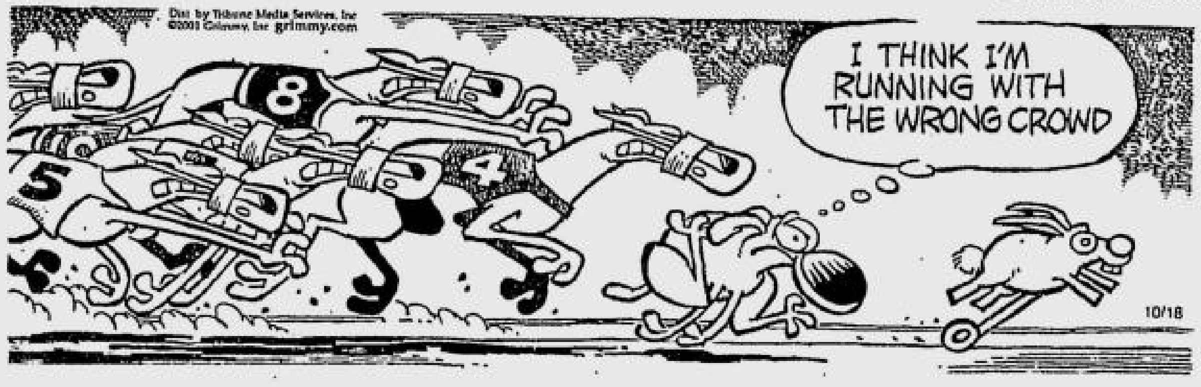
December 8, Saturday, 1:30 – 5:00 pm MORE BAKING Lemon Roulade, Capuccino Brownies, Caramel Tarts, Empanaditas, White Chocolate Cheesecake P 1,000

MONTEREY
DARI CREME



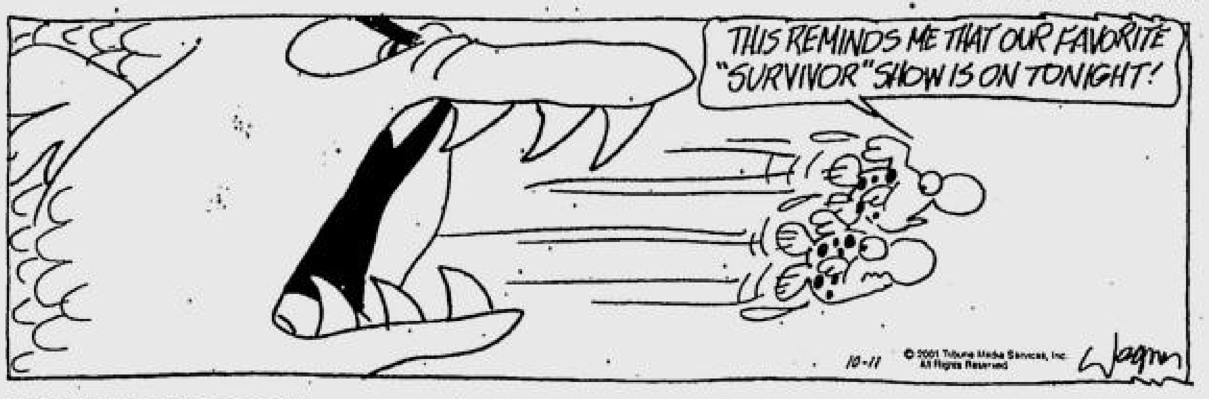
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy, Inc grimmy.com
I THINK I'M RUNNING WITH THE WRONG CROWD
10/18

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THIS REMINDS ME THAT OUR FAVORITE "SURVIVOR" SHOW IS ON TONIGHT!
10-11
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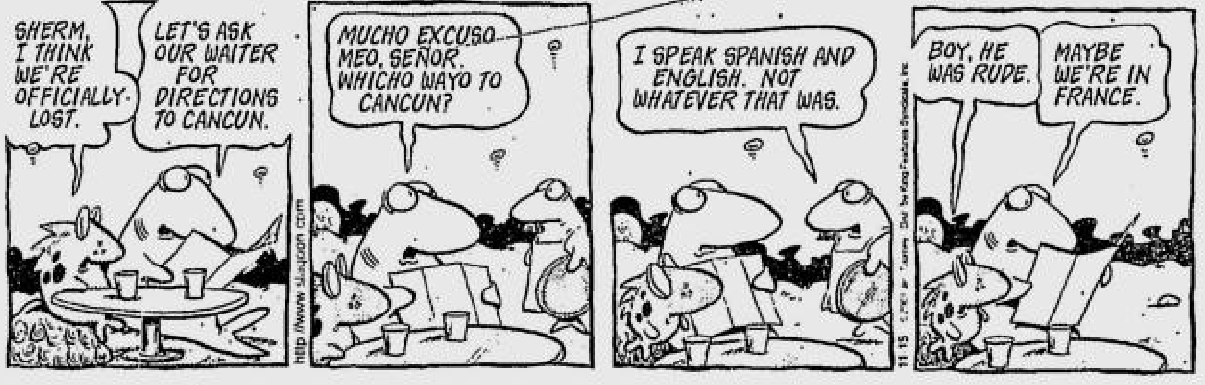
Wagner

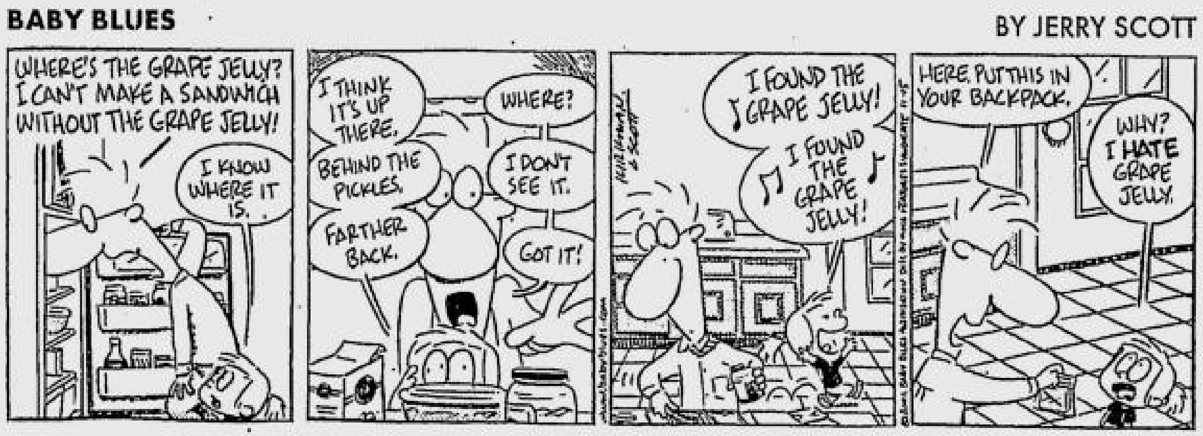
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERM, I THINK WE'RE OFFICIALLY LOST.
LET'S ASK OUR WAITER FOR DIRECTIONS TO CANCUN.
http://www.slagoon.com
MUCHO EXCUSO MEO, SEÑOR. WHICHO WAYO TO CANCUN?
I SPEAK SPANISH AND ENGLISH. NOT WHATEVER THAT WAS.
BOY, HE WAS RUDE.
MAYBE WE'RE IN FRANCE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S THE GRAPE JELLY? I CAN'T MAKE A SANDWICH WITHOUT THE GRAPE JELLY!
I KNOW WHERE IT IS.
I THINK IT'S UP THERE.
WHERE?
BEHIND THE PICKLES.
I DON'T SEE IT.
FARTHER BACK.
GOT IT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
I FOUND THE GRAPE JELLY!
I FOUND THE GRAPE JELLY!
HERE. PUT THIS IN YOUR BACKPACK.
WHY? I HATE GRAPE JELLY.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Asner, Beverly D'Angelo, Petula Clark, Yaphet Kotto, Sam Waterston

Happy Birthday: Look out for your best interests and live your own dream this year. It's time to stop letting others dictate what you can do. Take control of your life and make changes to satisfy your needs and accomplish your goals. Your numbers: 3, 11, 17, 24, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You've been working too hard. You need some excitement. Short trips beckon. Make plans and try to convince a good friend to take a weekend holiday with you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Prepare for the weekend. A few alterations to your home will make it more comfortable. This is a great day to entertain. You can help a friend with financial problems by setting up a feasible budget.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your thoughts on paper. You can get your point across if you are precise. Ask for assistance. If your idea is sound, people will want to help it get off the ground.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will probably end up with more responsibility. Don't make promises you may not be able to keep. Try to keep opinions to yourself. You don't have time for idle chatter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to put your life in perspective. Gambling is a waste of money. Save what you have for a rainy day. Your time is better spent on physical fitness programs or competitive sports.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Clear the decks so you'll be able to enjoy the weekend. Keep busy, or emotional problems will surface. Someone you care about may cause anguish. Avoid disputes and anger, which lead to trouble.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be discriminating about new acquaintances and protect yourself. Avoid being caught in a triangle and be careful not to reveal secret information. Do some research before taking someone's word.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think twice if a friend wants you to contribute financially. Let him or her down easily. Just say you are saving for a vacation or a loan to a relative in need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be more emotional than usual. Keep busy with enjoyable activities. If at all possible, attend a lecture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This isn't the day to get angry at a colleague. Do your job and let the boss handle your co-worker's incompetence. Finish your project for peace of mind and then pamper yourself.

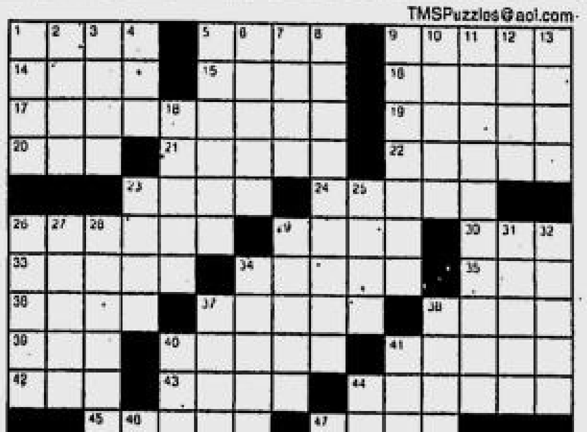
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll attract attention, and perhaps a special person, if you mingle at fund-raisers or cultural or community events. Your unique ideas and innovative plans will impress others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is not the time to slack off. Prepare your home for an upcoming event. Don't let the work hang over your head. This is a day to share with the people you care most about.

Birthday Baby: Your staying power, courage and need to follow your own path will lead to many accomplishments. Being competitive, you will never back away from a challenge.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

10/1/01

ACROSS
1 Gambling game
5 French islands
9 Respond to a stimulus
14 Grace ending
15 Church part
16 Mistake
17 Formal hair clip?
19 Picture border
20 Period
21 Relaxes
22 Fire remains
23 Walk worriedly
24 Arrivederci, Andre
26 Wretched
29 Bedazzle
30 Q-U span
33 Textile
34 Hotel workers
35 Actress Sandra
36 Aahs' partners
37 Missile berths
38 M. Descartes
39 Flowed
40 Up and about
41 Salted meat
42 Final degree
43 Food scraps
44 Freely granted friendly acts
45 Sprite in "The Tempest"
47 Rank's partner?
48 Sixths of sets in tennis
50 Holliman and Scruggs
52 Dog tags, e.g.
55 Not fulfilled
56 Formal alley prowler?
58 Martin of "Roxanne"
59 Seep
60 Corn concoction
61 Employer, initially
62 Ogled
63 Medical school subj.

DOWN
1 Token value
2 Love of Don Quixote?
3 Singer McEntire
4 Any person
5 Unaltered
6 Gap in time
7 Actress Arden, casually
8 Physical feeling
9 Stays
10 Rub out
11 Formal Erte creations?
12 Dove home
13 Very in Giverny
18 Arrive at
23 Cocker spaniels and cockatoos
25 Flops
26 Potential oak
27 Become inflated
28 Formal groundbreaker?
29 Merchant's figures
31 Toledo man
32 Green years
34 Decorative Christmas sprig
37 Male parent
38 Great review
40 Revel noisily
41 Lightweight wood
44 Caught on camera
46 "Still Me" writer
47 Stood stock-still
48 Flow freely
49 Against
51 Nautical shout
52 Religious image
53 Comic Carvey
54 Leave text as is
57 Mineral spring

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

N	A	N	C	Y	L	O	P	E	Z	■	I	N	G	A
A	M	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	E	■	D	E	E	M
R	E	P	O	P	U	L	A	T	E	■	L	U	N	A
E	B	A	N	■	S	E	R	E	■	P	E	R	E	Z
S	A	L	E	S	■	■	■	■	C	E	S	A	R	E
■	■	■	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S	■	L	A	M
A	M	P	■	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	■	G	T	E
M	E	L	■	A	S	T	A	R	T	E	■	I	O	N
B	S	A	■	M	E	A	T	I	E	R	■	A	R	T
E	M	U	■	B	A	R	T	E	R	E	R	■	■	■
R	E	S	U	L	T	■	■	■	■	R	E	A	P	S
G	R	I	P	E	■	L	I	A	M	■	T	R	E	E
R	I	B	S	■	B	O	N	N	E	V	I	L	L	E
I	S	L	E	■	A	U	C	T	I	O	N	E	E	R
S	T	E	T	■	S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E	S

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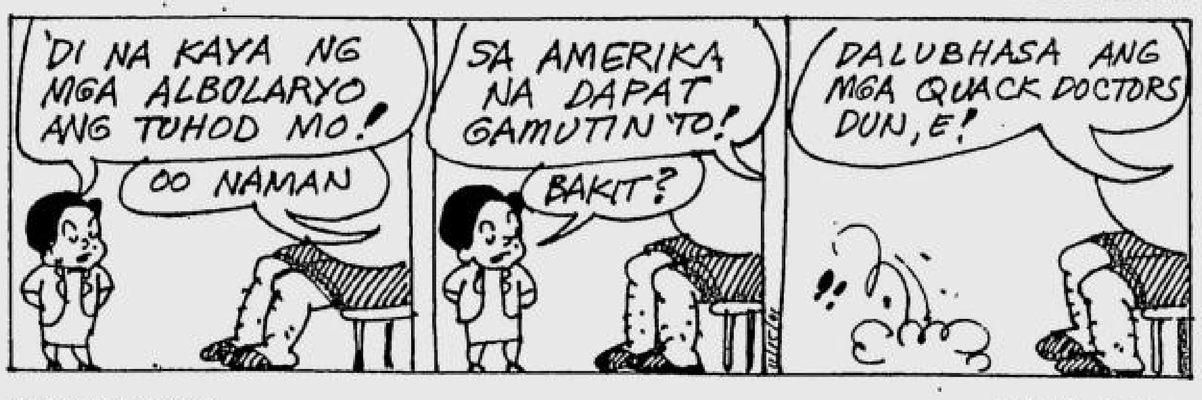
10/1/01

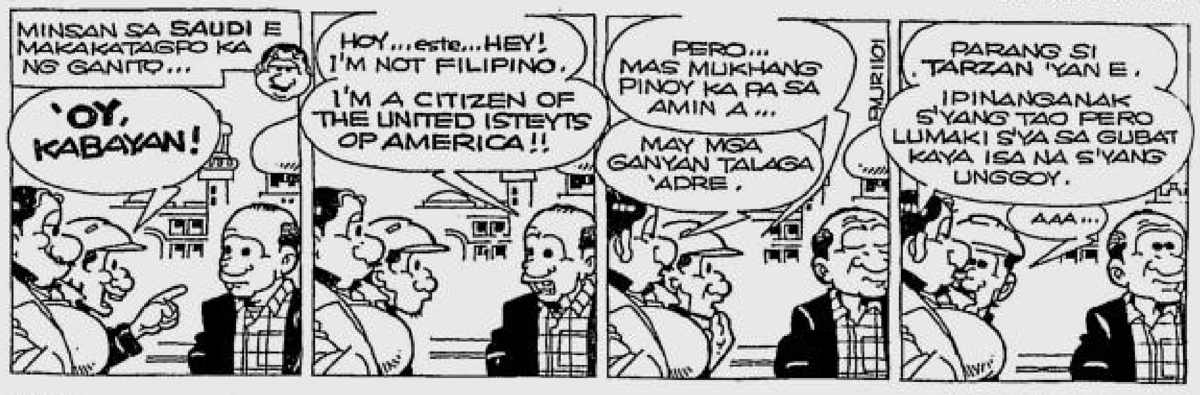
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI NA KAYA NG MGA ALBOLARYO ANG TUHOD MO!
OO NAMAN
SA AMERIKA NA DAPAT GAMUTIN 'TO!
BAKIT?
DALUBHASA ANG MGA QUACK DOCTORS DUN, E!

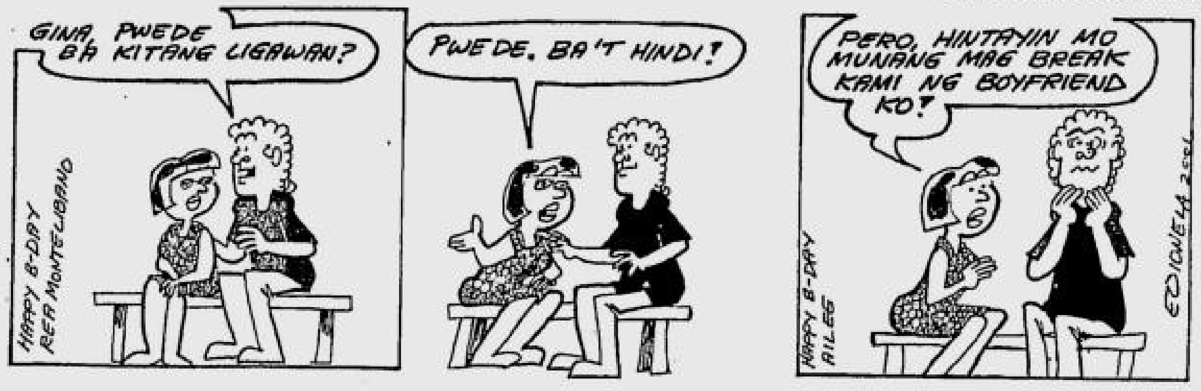
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MINSAN SA SAUDI E MAKAKATAGPO KA NG GANITO...
'OY, KABAYAN!
HOY... este... HEY! I'M NOT FILIPINO.
I'M A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED ISTEYTS OF AMERICA!!
PERO... MAS MUKHANG PINOY KA PA SA AMIN A...
MAY MGA GANYAN TALAGA 'ADRE.
PARANG SI TARZAN 'YAN E.
IPINANGANAK S'YANG TAO PERO LUMAKI S'YA SA GUBAT KAYA ISA NA S'YANG UNGGOY.
AAA...

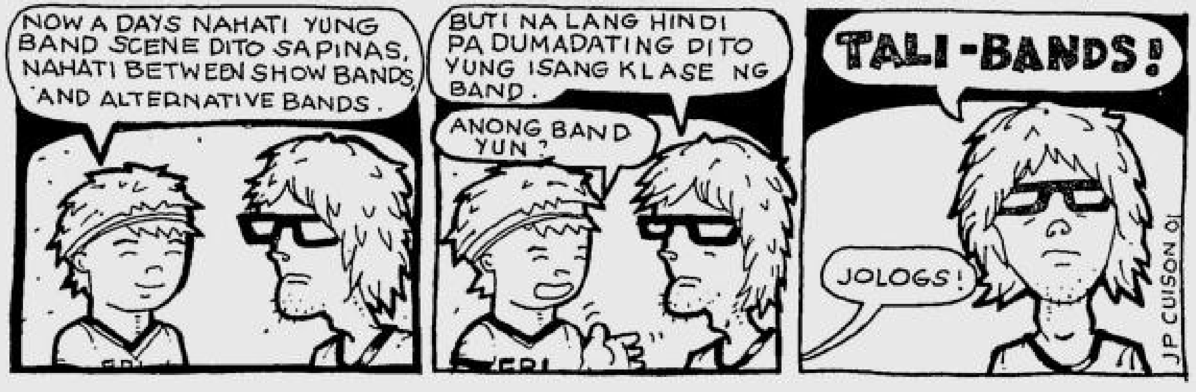
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


GINA, PWEDE BA KITANG LIGAWAN?
HAPPY B-DAY REA MONTELIBANO
PWEDE. BA'T HINDI!
PERO, HINTAYIN MO MUNANG MAG BREAK KAMI NG BOYFRIEND KO?
HAPPY B-DAY RILES
EDIONELA 2001

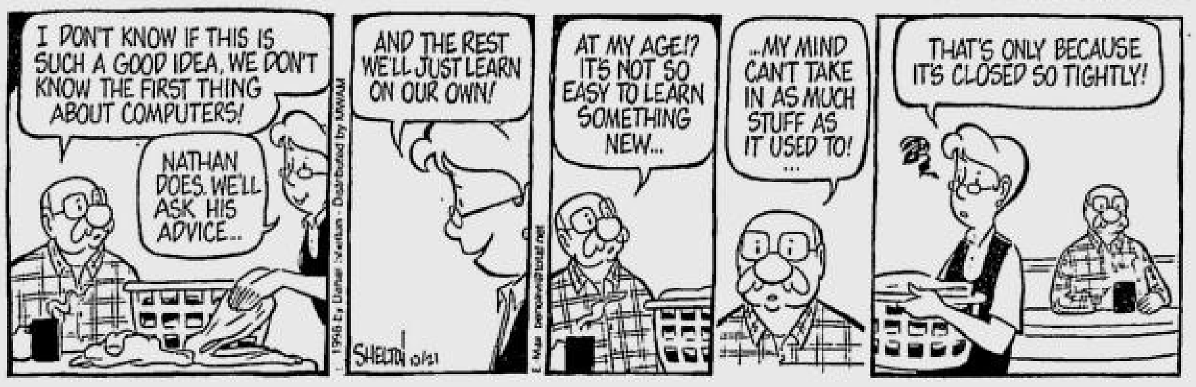
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NOW A DAYS NAHATI YUNG BAND SCENE DITO SA PINAS, NAHATI BETWEEN SHOW BANDS AND ALTERNATIVE BANDS.
BUTI NA LANG HINDI PA DUMADATING DITO YUNG ISANG KLASE NG BAND.
ANONG BAND YUN?
TALI-BANDS!
JOLOGS!
JP CUISON 01

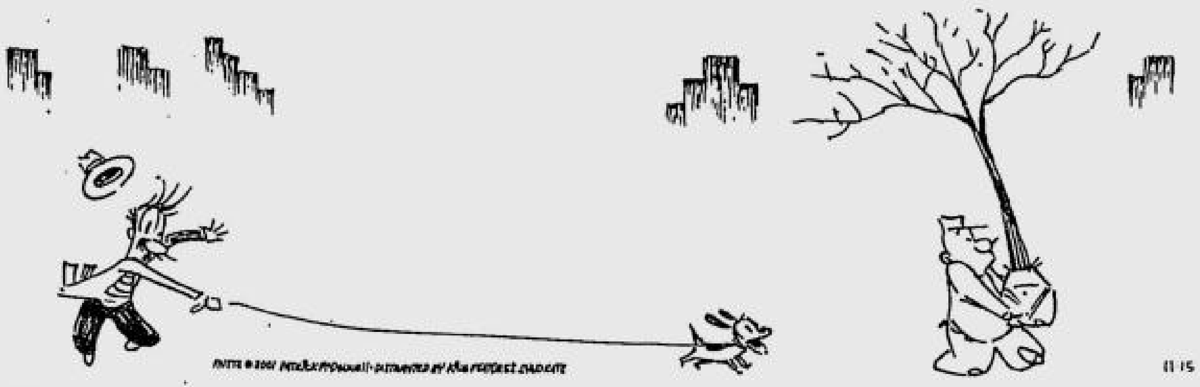
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA. WE DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT COMPUTERS!
NATHAN DOES. WE'LL ASK HIS ADVICE...
AND THE REST WE'LL JUST LEARN ON OUR OWN!
SHELTON 10/21
AT MY AGE!? IT'S NOT SO EASY TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW...
...MY MIND CAN'T TAKE IN AS MUCH STUFF AS IT USED TO!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE IT'S CLOSED SO TIGHTLY!

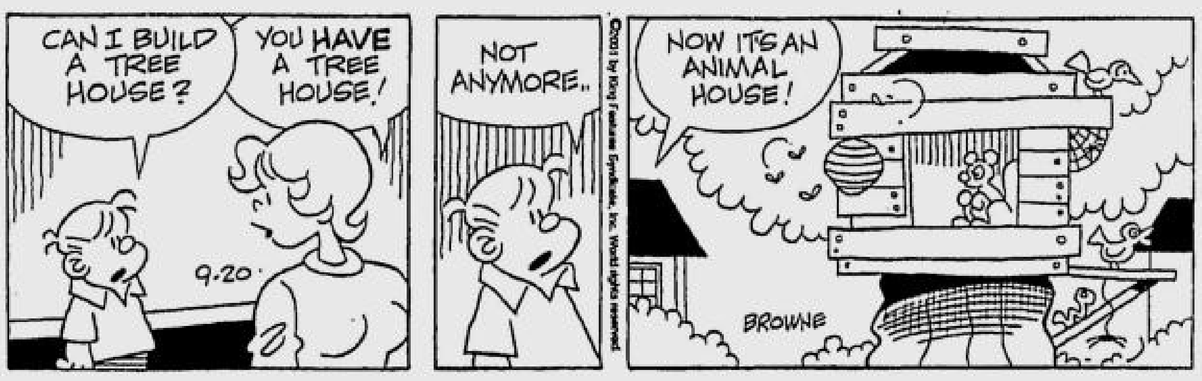
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



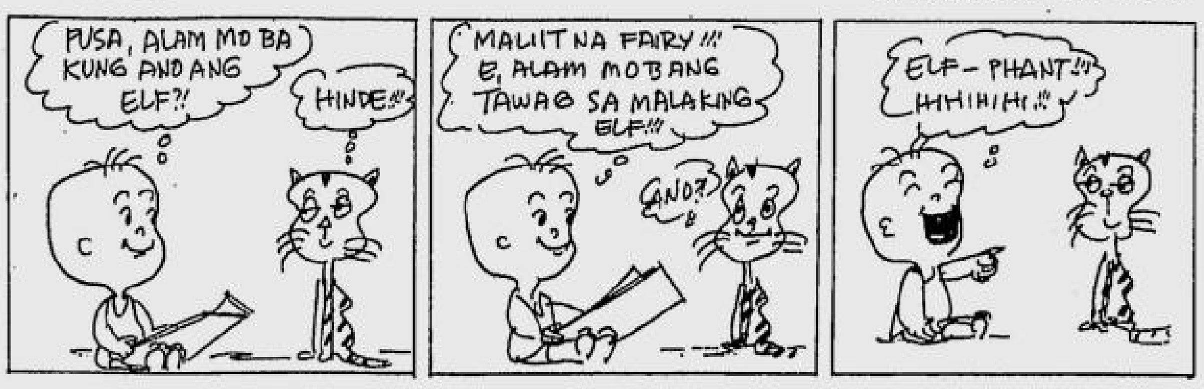
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN I BUILD A TREE HOUSE?
YOU HAVE A TREE HOUSE!
9.20
NOT ANYMORE..
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
NOW IT'S AN ANIMAL HOUSE!
BROWNE

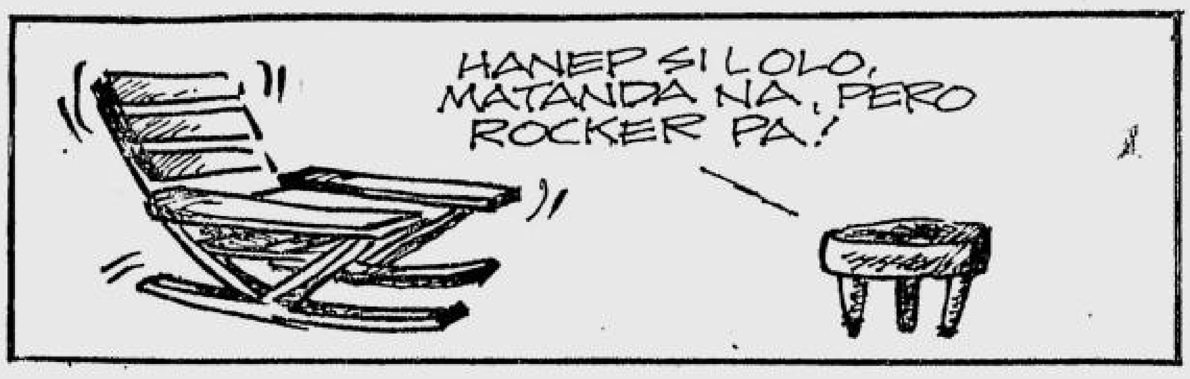
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, ALAM MO BA KUNG ANO ANG ELF?!
HINDE!!!
MALIIT NA FAIRY!!! E, ALAM MO BA NG TAWAG SA MALAKING ELF!!!
ANO?
ELF-PHANT!!! HIHIHIHI!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


HANEP SI LOLO, MATANDA NA, PERO ROCKER PA!

Gyoza, the new shrimp craze

FOR THOSE craving for a different shrimp concoction, the newly opened Gyozatei Authentic Japanese Dumplings at the corner of Tomas Morato and Scout Madrinan Streets in Quezon City is giving local consumers a first taste of one of the most savored of the more than 30 dumpling varieties that are making waves in the Japanese food business today—the shrimp gyoza.

The variety well known to the taste buds of Pinoys could be the pork gyoza. Now the authentic Japanese shrimp gyoza is definitely a new and unique treat, made available to local consumers only by Gyozatei Phils. Corp., licensed by the original maker of shrimp gyoza—Gyozatei of Japan.

Gyozatei, a chain of restaurants outside Tokyo, is one of the fastest-growing restaurants in Japan today. The outlet in Quezon City is the first to be opened outside Japan.

Gyoza, the term for Japanese pan-fried dumpling, originally came from China where they're known as *jiaozi*, *chiao-tzu* or *guo tei*. But dumplings have become so much a part of Japanese culture that they are now commonly seen on Japanese restaurant menus, along with another dish derived from the Chinese—ramen in soup. Topping the ramen line of Gyozatei is the sesame and *miso* ramen. Japanese fried rice and *mochi* as dessert are also available.

Reynaldo Mendoza, president of Gyozatei Philippines, said gyozas are popular in Japan because they are easy to prepare.

Gyozas are steamed, then grilled, turning brown and crispy on the bottom, while remaining soft on top. Japanese gyozas traditionally are filled with ground pork and *nira* or garlic chives, a garlicky-flavored chive.

Besides shrimp gyozas, Gyozatei Phils. is also initially offering pork and sharksfin gyozas. It will soon be offering other gyozas like cuttlefish, chicken, leek, spinach and *miso*. This year, the company is also planning to open another outlet in Glorietta or Libis.

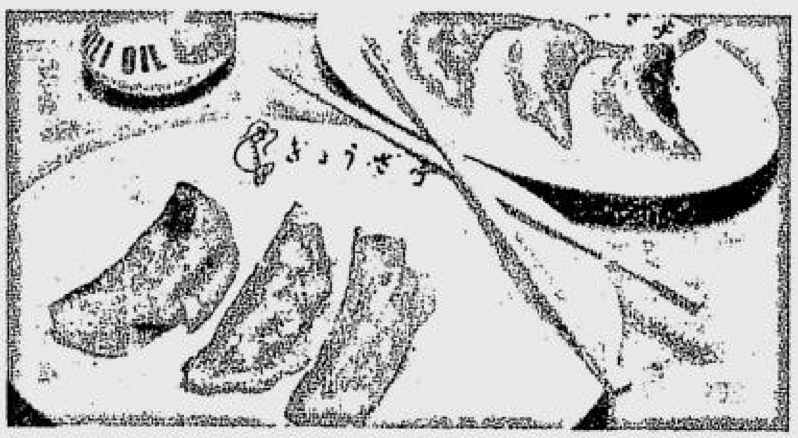
Mendoza said all its dumpling ingredients are imported fresh from Japan. Its kitchen staff was also trained by Gyozatei in Japan.

This, Mendoza said, is to ensure that Filipino patrons will be eating nothing less than authentic Japanese dumplings.

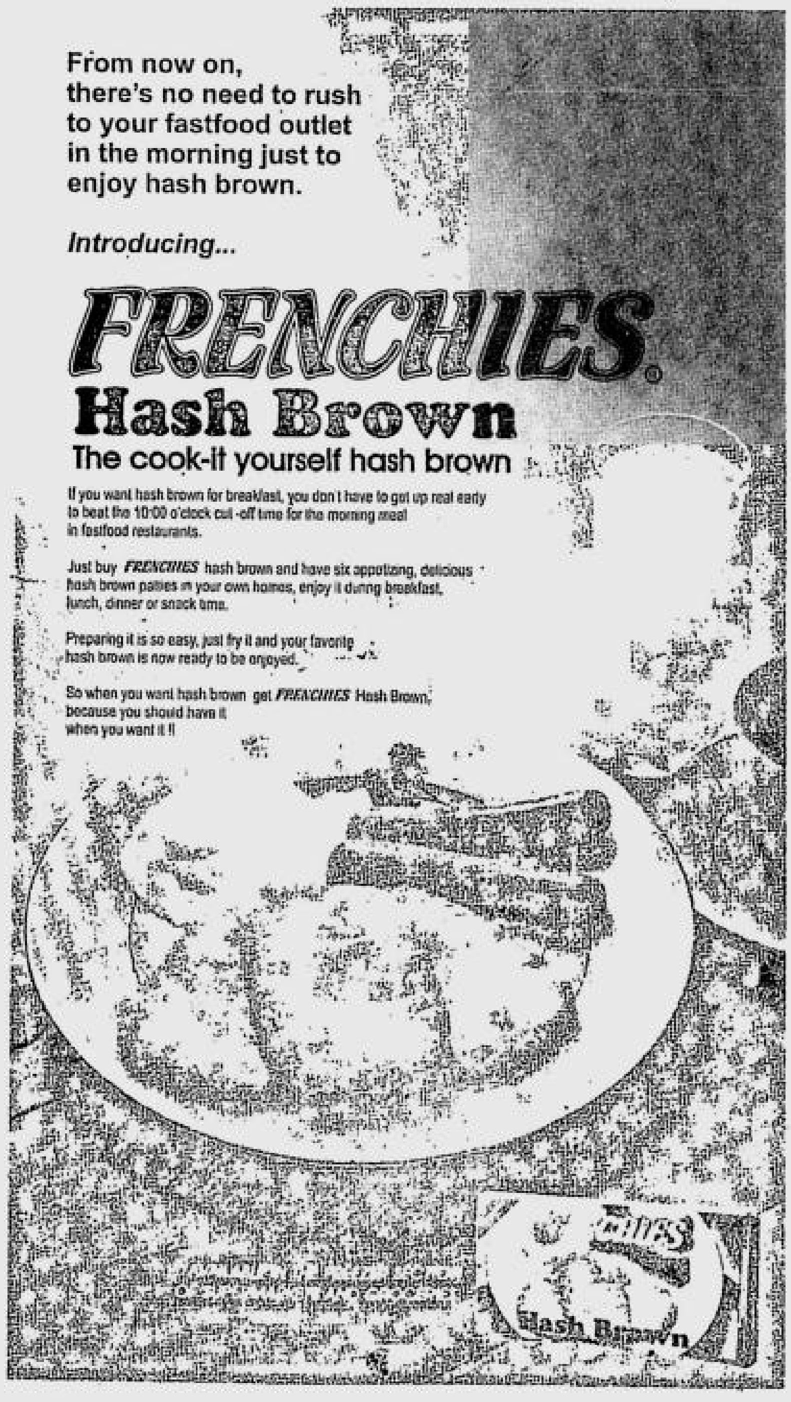
The place also provides a truly Japanese restaurant ambiance, with furnishings similar to those of Gyozatei restaurants in Japan, which now have over 20.

The gyozas are also available for take-out (six or 10 pieces per box), either cooked or frozen. The staff will tell you how to cook them.

GYOZATEI boasts of a truly Japanese restaurant ambience besides its authentic Japanese dumplings.



SHRIMP and original gyozas



From now on,
there's no need to rush
to your fastfood outlet
in the morning just to
enjoy hash brown.

Introducing...

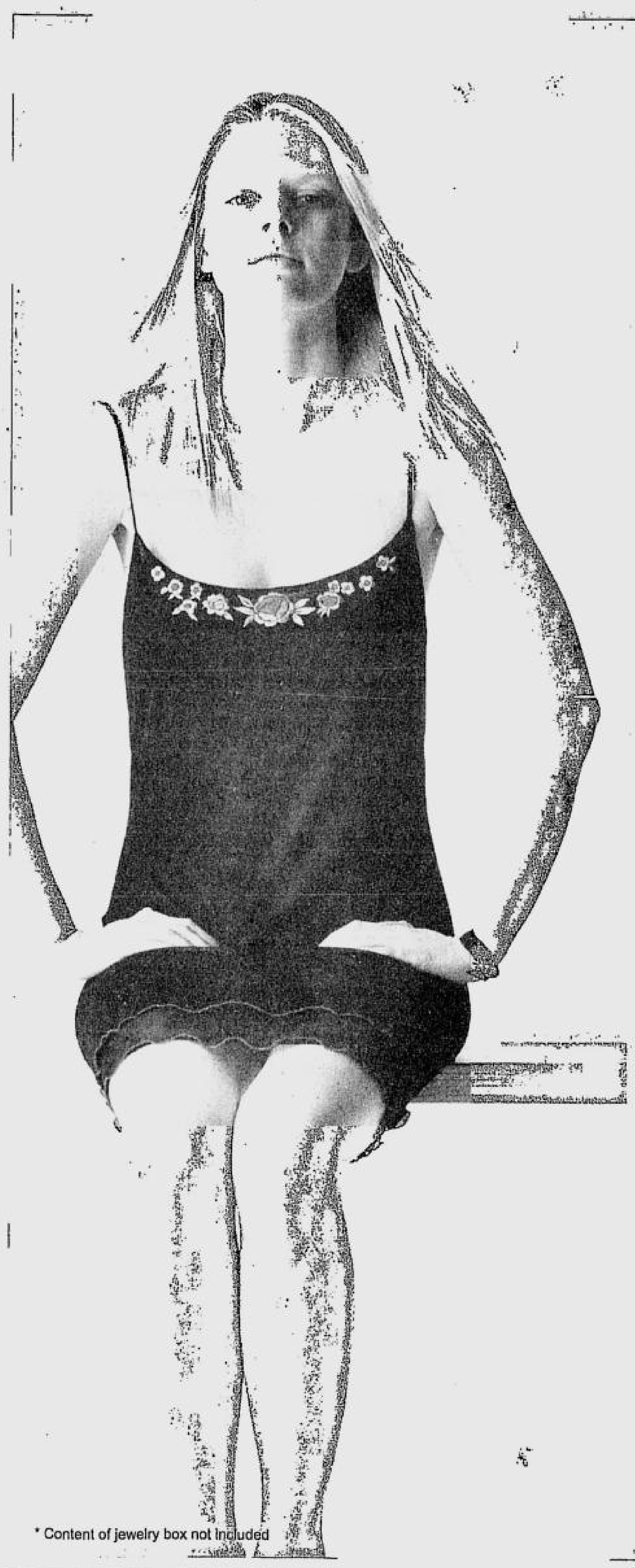
FRENCHIES®
Hash Brown
The cook-it yourself hash brown

If you want hash brown for breakfast, you don't have to get up real early to beat the 10:00 o'clock cut-off time for the morning meal in fastfood restaurants.

Just buy *FRENCHIES* hash brown and have six appetizing, delicious hash brown patties in your own homes, enjoy it during breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack time.

Preparing it is so easy, just fry it and your favorite hash brown is now ready to be enjoyed.

So when you want hash brown get *FRENCHIES* Hash Brown, because you should have it when you want it !!



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This elegant jewelry box can be yours for free. A chest that you'll definitely treasure forever. Get it with a minimum single purchase of regular items worth P3,500.00 from the *Josie* or *Natori* lines. Offer good from Nov. 15,2001 to Jan. 15,2002.

NATORI

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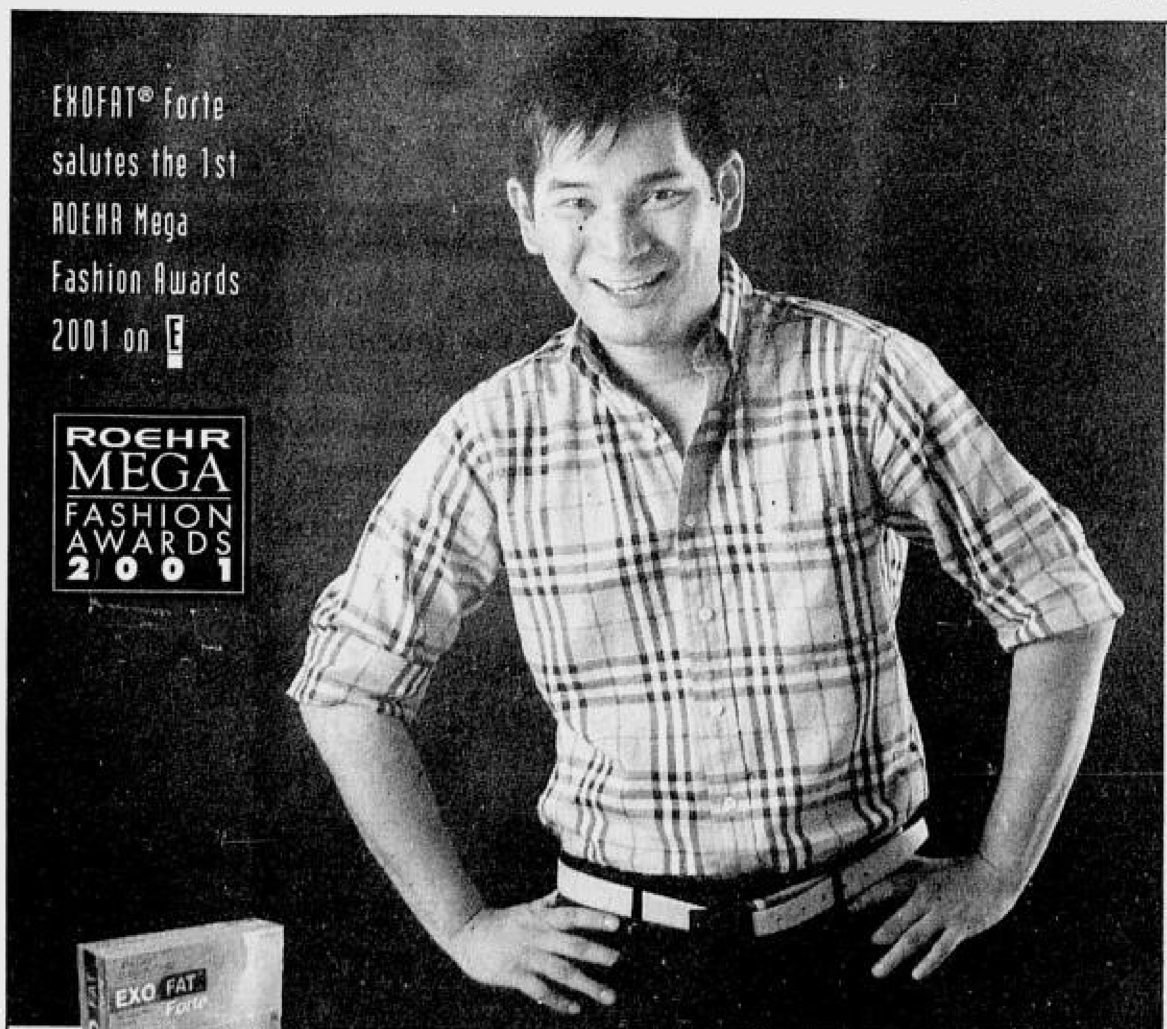
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

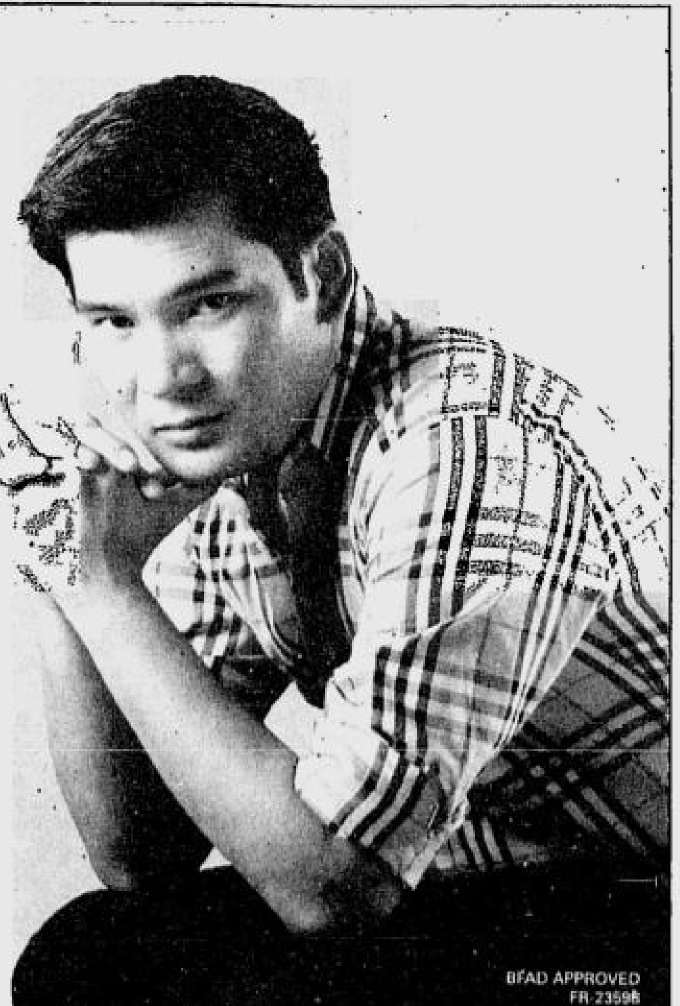
* Content of jewelry box not included

Per DTI NCR permit no. 3830, Series of 2001.



EXOFAT® Forte salutes the 1st ROEHR Mega Fashion Awards 2001 on E

ROEHR MEGA FASHION AWARDS 2001



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Robby Carmona
Fashion and Events Director

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GINISANG Dulong with Kamias

ASADO Dila

CRISPY Tadyang

Light and flavorful buffet offerings at Cabalen

THE FRESHEST catch of the sea... and more are at Cabalen this month. As a prelude to the Yuletide season of ham and roast beef dining, the restaurant offers dishes both light and mouthwatering.

For appetizers: Ginisang Dulong with Camias or crunch on crispy Shrimp Okoy, or a sampling of rarely offered Quilain Salmon. For the main course, the best-loved seafood dish of Inihaw Itlog ng Tuna grilled just right, or Inihaw na Panga Tuna are on the table, among its more than 40 choices of appetizers, soups, salads, hot entrees, grillade and desserts.

Cabalen is known for Eat-All-You-Can Eat-All-You-Want buffet spread that can be enjoyed anytime of the day, anyday of the week for only P220 for adults and P95 for kids below 4 ft plus VAT.

Diners may request for their preferred dishes, which are then taken into consideration in the succeeding food promotions. Thus, for November, also featured are the following requested dishes: delicious Crispy Tadyang, tasty Fried Chicken, tender Asado Dila and Pinangat na Gabi that is truly a vegetarian's delight.

For the holidays, Cabalen has whipped up affordable Christmas party packages and offers catering services at reasonable prices. Call Roger Roberto, catering manager, at 647-5088.

Cabalen—with eight branches in Metro Manila: SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM City Manila, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Sta Lucia East Grand Mall, along West Avenue and Kalayaan Avenue in Blue Ridge, QC—offers the following recipes to try at home.

Ginisang Dulong

½ kg *dulong*
1 c *kamias*
¼ c cooking oil
1 clove garlic
6 pc tomatoes
1 tbsp Salt
2 pc onion, minced
1 pc salted egg

Wash *dulong* thoroughly, drain and set aside. Wash and slice *kamias* thinly (round). Set aside. Peel and crush garlic. Peel and mince onion. Wash and slice tomatoes. Set aside.

In a wok, saute garlic until golden brown. Add onion and cook until wilted. Add tomatoes and cook until mushy. Add *dulong*, stir. Add salt. Continue simmering until it slightly dries up. Remove from fire. Serve with sliced salted egg and *kamias* on top.

PINANGAT na Gabi

Quilain Salmon

500 g salmon steak
1 c vinegar
1 pc cucumber
2 pc red bell pepper
1 pc native ginger, small
2 pc onion, red, medium
2 pc *sili labuyo*
2 tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper, ground
2 tbsp *calamansi* extract

Remove skin of salmon, slice into medium cubes. Wash in ½ cup vinegar. Drain and set aside. Wash and drain all vegetables. Peel and slice ginger into strips. Peel and slice cucumber intro strips. Discard seeds of bell pepper then slice into strips. Mince *sili labuyo*, set aside.

In a clean food container, combine salmon, ground pepper, vinegar, bell pepper, onion, ginger and *calamansi*. Toss. Add cucumber and toss again. Chill. Serve.

Crispy Tadyang

2 kg beef ribs
3 pc laurel leaves
2 tbsp Salt
10 c water
1 tsp black pepper, ground

Slice beef ribs into 2" long. Wash and drain, set aside. In a clean casserole, combine beef ribs, salt, black pepper, laurel and water. Cover and bring to boil for 30 mins. Reduce fire, continue simmering until meat is tender. Remove tender meat from soup stock. Air cool.

Heat oil in a wok. Deep-fry beef ribs until golden brown and crisp. Drain excess oil. Serve with *toyomansi* sauce.

Pinangat na Gabi

½ kg ground pork
4 pc *gabi sigang*
1 pc native ginger, small
1 pc onion, red
5 pc *sili labuyo*
¼ tsp black pepper, ground
3 c coconut milk, 2nd extract
1½ c coconut cream, 1st extract
1 tbsp salt
10 pc *gabi* leaves

Extract 2 kg grated coconut with 1 cup water, strain (1st extract). Put in a covered container, store in chiller. Extract grated coconut again with 3 cups water, strain (2nd extract). Put in a covered container and store in chiller. Wash and drain all ingredients. Peel *gabi sigang*, slice into small cubes. Peel and mince onion, ginger and *sili labuyo*. Set aside.

In a clean food container, combine ground pork, *gabi sigang*, ginger, onion, salt, black pepper and *sili labuyo*. Mix well. Wrap 25 g mixture to *gabi* leaves. Set aside. Line wok with banana leaves. Arrange wrapped mixture in a wok. Pour 2nd extract coconut milk. Put cover and allow to simmer for 30 minutes. Agitate wok, once in a while. Pour coconut cream (1st extract). Simmer again for 30 minutes until cooked. Taste then serve.

Inihaw Itlog ng Tuna

½ kg tuna egg
¼ c soy sauce
½ c *calamansi* extract
½ tsp black pepper, ground

Wash tuna egg in running water. Drain thoroughly. In a clean food

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container, combine all ingredients. Prick tuna egg with stick. Allow to marinate for 15 minutes. Wrap marinated tuna egg in aluminum foil (include marinade sauce).

Grill wrapped tuna egg for 30 minutes or until done. Remove wrapper. Slice grilled egg approximately ½" thick. Serve with *toyomansi* sauce on the side.

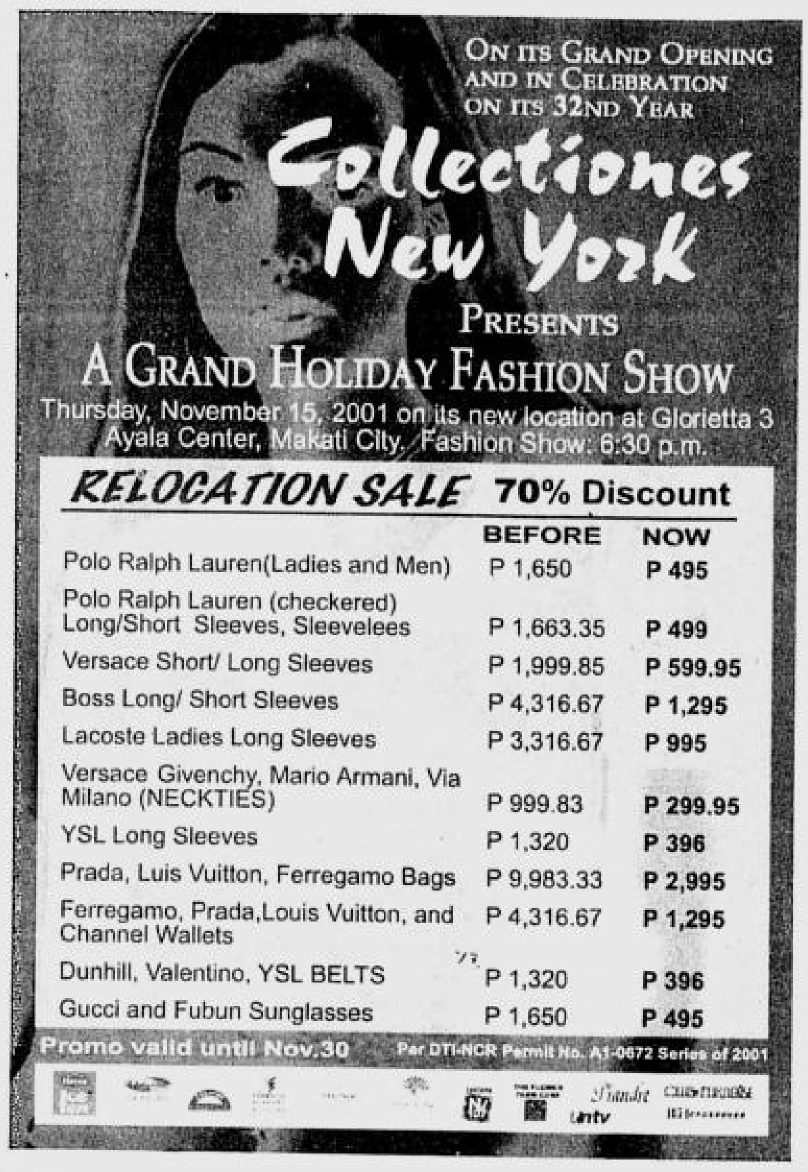
Asado Dila

3 kg ox tongue
½ c *calamansi* extract
½ c soy sauce
2 pc laurel leaves
¼ tsp whole black pepper
1/8 c cooking oil
1 clove native garlic
1 pc red onion
1 can tomato sauce
1 can tomato paste
1 box beef cubes
1 tsp salt
8 c *bulalo* (soup stock)
5 c water

In a clean food keeper, combine ox tongue, soy sauce, lemon, laurel and black pepper. Marinate for 30 minutes. Peel and mince garlic, set aside. Peel and slice onion, set aside.

Saute garlic until golden brown. Add onion and cook until wilted. Add tomato sauce and tomato paste, then mix. Pour *bulalo* soup stock (if not available, add 1 box beef cubes) and water. Bring to boil for 1 minute. Strain. Add marinated ox tongue. Boil for 2 minutes. Season with salt. Reduce fire and continue simmering until meat is tender. Serve.

WEDDING WINNER Shirley Ong Serrano's elegant cake bagged the first prize in the Global Wedding Cake Competition sponsored by Puratos Phils., a Belgian company. Serrano, a resource person teaching updated techniques in fondant decorating at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, joined the contest mainly for the reward: a trip to Brussels, Belgium where her son is studying. Serrano is a member of an international baking club, and travels often to keep abreast of the latest trends in baking and cake decorating.



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Gucci and Fubun Sunglasses	P 1,650	P 495

Promo valid until Nov.30 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0672 Series of 2001

Pollo alla fiorentin

1 pc chicken breast
20 g spinach, chopped
10 g blue cheese
5 g peppercorn
10 ml cream
1 tsp onion

Mix the spinach and blue cheese. Make a pocket in the chicken and stuff with the mixture. Grill. For the sauce, sauté the onion, add the peppercorn and cream. Cut the chicken in slices then top it with the sauce. Garnish with buttered mixed vegetables.

This dish is included in Traders Café's La Cucina Italiana menu.

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(From page C1)

Try Yakisoba (Japanese stir fry noodles mixed with pork, squid, mushrooms and seaweeds), Chinese Wanton Noodles (minced chicken wantons on fresh broth, topped off with egg noodles) and Miki Bihon Alanganin (*miki* and *bihon* in a soupy sauce).

What the restaurant, which is located at 2/L Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati, seems to have done, with comparatively little effort, is to redefine noodles. The spicy, fragrant, utterly fresh noodles that come from its open kitchen is without peer. The dishes are priced between P35-80.

The noodles are earthy and delicately crunchy, as in the Crispy Canton with Quekiam, which is fried canton with shrimp, vegetables and *quekiam*.

According to owner Irene Martel Francisco, Ten Noodles, which also has an outlet at Harrison Plaza in Manila, represents the Asean countries such as the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand and China through the dishes it serves piping hot or soothingly cold, crunchy when fried or slithery when mixed in a broth.

Staple with many faces

Noodles can be enjoyed on any occasion and any time of the day. Legend has it that noodles were first made by 13th-century German bakers, who fashioned dough into symbolic shapes like birds, swords and stars. These "*nudels*" were then baked and served as bread.

The Chinese have eaten noodles since 3000 B.C. On the other hand, the Etruscans, the early inhabitants of Italy, started making pasta in 400 B.C.

MIKO Bihon Alanganin

IRENE Martel Francisco

Nowadays, lusty slurping of noodles is regarded more as a compliment to the cook than bad manners. In Japan, for instance, participants in Zen retreats are only allowed to break their silence when they eat noodles as it is believed impossible to eat them quietly.

At Ten Noodles, you can indulge your craving for pasta of all kinds and slurp all you want amid the restaurant's sleek interiors (designed by the husband-and-wife team of Baby and Coco Anne) and not have to worry.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Pizza house's Mr. Dynamo

ARCHIE Rodriguez is a mixture of youthful energy and sense of purpose. He can't be otherwise because he is the president of eight premier restaurants, including the newly opened California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) at Shangri-La Plaza mall, located across the newly constructed bridge on the second level.

For Archie, to get things moving in a restaurant like CPK is no easy feat. Having to work in an open kitchen, the restaurant's chefs have to contend daily not only with the food preparation, but with the demanding nature of the restaurant's customers as well.

From its first Beverly Hills restaurant in 1995, CPK branched out across 19 states in the United States. In the Philippines, it took a lot of hard work for Archie and his Global Restaurant Management Group (GRMG) to acquire CPK's franchise and to open CPK's first branch in the Philippines in 1998.

Through the years, GRMG and its affiliates have met international standards to better serve the dining customers. "Our franchise's brand name enjoy wide recognition and respect due to our well-known commitment to the quality of food," Archie says.

CPK's success may lie in its unique repertoire of gourmet pizzas and pastas cooked in an upbeat and exciting environment created by its founders, Flax and Rosenfield. The restaurant's coziness owes to the design, simple and subtle, with natural light coming from the glass windows.

"CPK's opening in Shangri-La is phenomenal!" Archie exclaims. At the heart of the restaurant is a state-of-the-art software system—the world's frontrunner in fully computerizing restaurant operations, Micros-Fidelio. "Primarily, we decided to use Micros-Fidelio for CPK Shangri-La because it is the leader in the industry. I am confident that it is the software system that totally complements the restaurant's principle of quality," he says.

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

"OUR franchise's brand name enjoy wide recognition and respect due to our well-known commitment to the quality of food," GRMG president Archie Rodriguez remarks.

Archie is the guy women often gaze at while he visits GRMG's various restaurants like CPK and Tequila Joe's. Despite the pressures, he manages well. "I just give the restaurant managers and the staff the guidelines, but I allow them to do it their way," Archie says.

A typical day for Archie means checking his restaurants and working out one to two hours in the gym. Yet, he always has enough time to be busy with fatherhood. Archie's face lights up at the mere mention of the word "family." He proudly shows a bulk of monthly snapshots of his beautiful baby daughter, nicknamed Gabbi. Even with his busy schedule, Archie always makes sure to have quality time with his daughter and family. No wonder he treats CPK Shangri-La like his own child—reflecting his and CPK's commitment to consistency in quality of food and service.

CPK INDULGENCE. To get things moving in a restaurant like CPK is no easy feat. Having to work in an open kitchen environment, the restaurant's chefs have to contend daily not only with the food, but with the keenly demanding nature of the resto's upscale customers as well.

Culinary intramural at Friday's

BRANCHES of T.G.I. Friday's took part in the Inter-Store Culinary Challenge 2001 at the Ortigas branch. The theme was "Pinoy Chefs: Setting a New World Standard," and chefs from the different branches competed to prepare recipes that may become part of Friday's menu.

Friday's Quezon City emerged champion for its appetizer (ancient scroll), entrée (salmon and prawn with basil sauce), pasta (fettuccine with chicken and shrimp in pink sauce) and desserts (meringue delight and sweet dreams).

Friday's GM Carmela Baronia and Ricky Lesaca accepted the trophy, cash prize of P10,000 and gift certificates on behalf of the team.

The Glorietta team placed second, followed by Ortigas. Friday's newest baby, Sta. Lucia East, won best table setup. Malate was named best in uniform.

The contest aimed to develop new dishes and enhance the skills of restaurant managers and back-of-the-house employees.

The board of judges is composed of Bistro Holdings corporate chef Eya Marcelo as chair and talented chefs Jay Gamboa and Philip Golding as members.

"I am so impressed with each team's own creations. And I am looking forward to the day when the winning recipes will be part of the Friday's menu," says Bistro Holdings COO Meritt Croker.

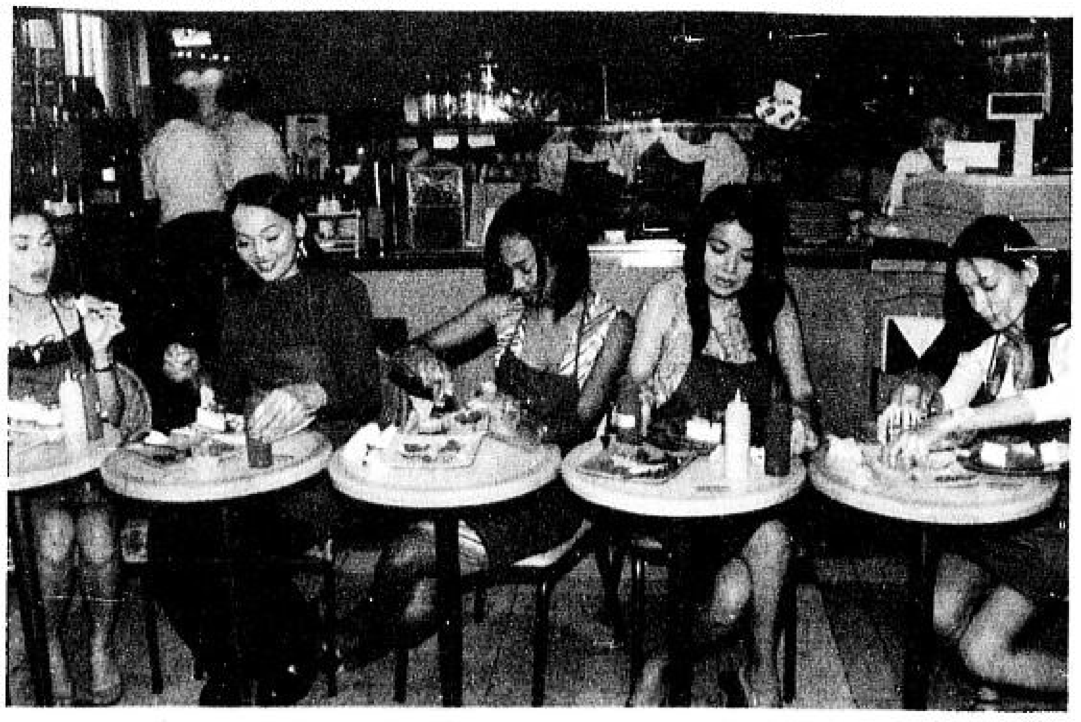
TASTEMAKERS

KIMCHI-HARRISON Plaza, a franchised outlet owned and operated by Belco Marketing Inc. (BMI), was inaugurated at 2/F Harrison Plaza. Special guests at the formal opening included Manila First Daughter Lani Atienza-Beltran, Harrison Plaza president Antonio V. Martel Jr., (ret.) Gen. Renato de Villa and BMI chair Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel. Kimchi has 11 other outlets at SM Cubao, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Bacoor, SM Southmall, SM City, SM Manila, Glorietta and Shangri-La Plaza.

STARBUCKS Coffee opened its 35th store at the Fort Bonifacio StopOver with a soft launch recently. Starbucks joined the inauguration of the StopOver complex with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Kaye Tinga, wife of Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Peza SVP for Operations Vic Tinsay and BESC GM Elizabeth Rabuy. VIPs and guests took part of the food served by Starbucks Coffee, Jollibee and Hen Lin. Notables who graced the occasion were Rustan Coffee president Jun Lopez, Shell president Oscar Reyes and Shell VP for Corporate Affairs Rey Gamboa. Rustan Coffee is the authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee in the Philippines.

BUDDIES, a quick-service restaurant, recently opened its doors to welcome families, friends and guests to share an afternoon of great food, fun and frills. Buddies serves wings, burgers and fries in a variety of glazes, sauces and dips. Spotted at the opening were Rep. Darlene Custodio and husband Benjie, architect Gelo Mañosa, Francis Ong, Edmund Sun, Stephanie Zubiri, Sandra Vidarte, Jack and Sonja Rodriquez, and Ambassador Raul Goco. Buddies is owned and managed by Global Restaurant Management, Millennium Place, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

PIZZA Hut opened its 92nd outlet at Robinsons Place Metro East, making it the Philippines' largest full service and delivery pizza chain. From left, restaurant manager Henry Castillo, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Zorayda Andam, Bb. Pilipinas-International Maricar Tolosa, Pasig City Mayor Soledad C. Eusebio and Councilor Charmy Benavides. Robinsons Pasig shoppers can now enjoy Pizza Hut's world-famous pizzas with doughs, baked fresh every day.



CHEESECAKE, etc., home of various cheesecake creations, opened its third branch at Glorietta 4, Makati on Sept. 28. Located at 2/F Glorietta 4, Cheesecake, etc. offers different varieties of cheesecake such as Berry Temptation (a cheesecake made from a special blend of strawberries and raspberries) and low-fat Berry Blue Cheesecake (made from fresh blueberries, without the added calories). As an opening treat, Cheesecake, etc. features a new creation—Black and White, a cheesecake sprinkled with cookie bits on top of a chocolate cookie base. Cheesecake, etc.'s other branches are located at the Alabang Town Center's New Entertainment Complex and Greenbelt Mall. Top celebrity models: Phoemela Barranda, Lucia Santiago, Wilma Doesnt, Aina Calanag and Nicolette Bell as they decorate their cheesecakes during the "Models' Plating Contest" at Cheesecake, etc. Glorietta 4 opening.

Another peek at the Peking duck

DINING OUT

PEKING GARDEN brings back its Peking duck promo with a 30-percent discount. The classic dish is served with three very typical northern items: wheat crêpes in which to wrap the tender meat and crispy skin; sliced spring onions, a favorite northern condiment; and fermented sweet flour paste. The preparation of Peking duck is a long process and is usually handled by specialty restaurants. The special promo runs until Dec. 2 and is available for lunch and dinner and valid for dine-in, à la carte orders only. Peking Garden is at the 2/L, Glorietta II, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 817-9066/67 or 817-9049.

EBISU GRILL on Jupiter Street recently celebrated its first anniversary. This chic and stylish Japanese hotspot takes on inspirations from Yakiniku restaurant in San Francisco and Izakayas in Japan where people gather for drinks and bar chow. Ebisu offers Japanese specialties: Age-tofu, Gyoza, Tebasaki and Korokke; enticing entrées include Tofu Steak, Ebisu Chicken and Yakiniku specials. New specialties include Yakiniku Scallops, Saikoro Steak (Japanese Salpicao), Gindara (Teppanyaki), Spicy Ika (Spicy Squid in Wasabe Cream Sauce and Ebisu Roll (Sushi Delight).

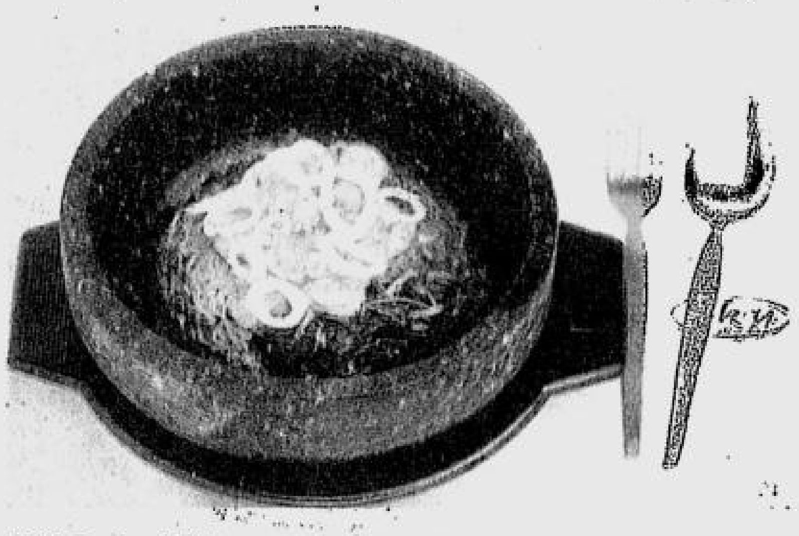
AKU CAFÉ & DINER celebrates its first anniversary on Nov. 12 with a growing selection of international cuisine. Among the all-time favorites are Pork Spareribs, Aku Bibimpop and its special gourmet *ensaymada*. Aku Café is at the corner of Del Monte Avenue and Sto. Domingo Road, QC. Call 414-3468/3469/3473.

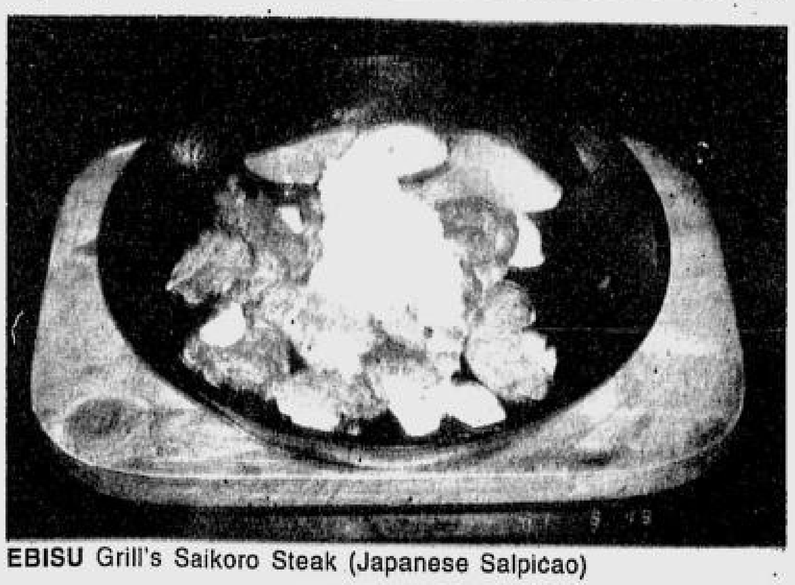
FAZOLI'S brings a distinct Italian flavor into the local food scene with the opening of its second Metro Manila outlet on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City. The first is located in the classy Eastwood City Walk along E. Rodriguez, in Avenue in Libis, QC. Fazoli's authentic Italian fare are served promptly and priced reasonably. Indulge in sumptuous but easy on the pocket pasta and pizza as well as submarines, pizzarinos, Italian chicken, spaghetti, soups and salads.

CASA ARMAS celebrates its Cochinillo Fest this month. Tasty house specialty, Baby Roast Suckling Pig, will surely cure your constant Cochinillo craving. Enjoy a free taste of Champiñon al Ajillo for every order of Cochinillo. Casa Armas is at 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. Call 897-3605/3542.

BALIBLUE EXPRESS, a real authentic Indonesian restaurant, recently opened its doors to gastronomic trippers with the inauguration of its outlet at the Food Court of the Expansion Mall of the Alabang Town Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Baliblue Express offers Indonesian cuisine: Nasi Goreng, Sate, Gado-gado, Beef Rendang, Sop Buntot and Risoles. Other menu specialties include Mie Goreng, noodles, salad, soup, dessert and food packages that come as value meals and family packs.

MANILA DIAMOND HOTEL celebrates the traditional thanksgiving holiday with a special buffet at Palm Court Café. Savor a succulent Roast Turkey with Mashed Potatoes and Cranberry Sauce. Enjoy delightful specialties from the appetizers, salad bar and dessert station and you've got a wonderful feast for the entire family. This eat-all-you-can buffet is priced at P615 per person. Children 6-10 years old get 50-percent discount and 5 years old and below dine for free. Call 526-2211, local 1520 or 1521.


AKU Seafood Bibimpop, an all-time favorite

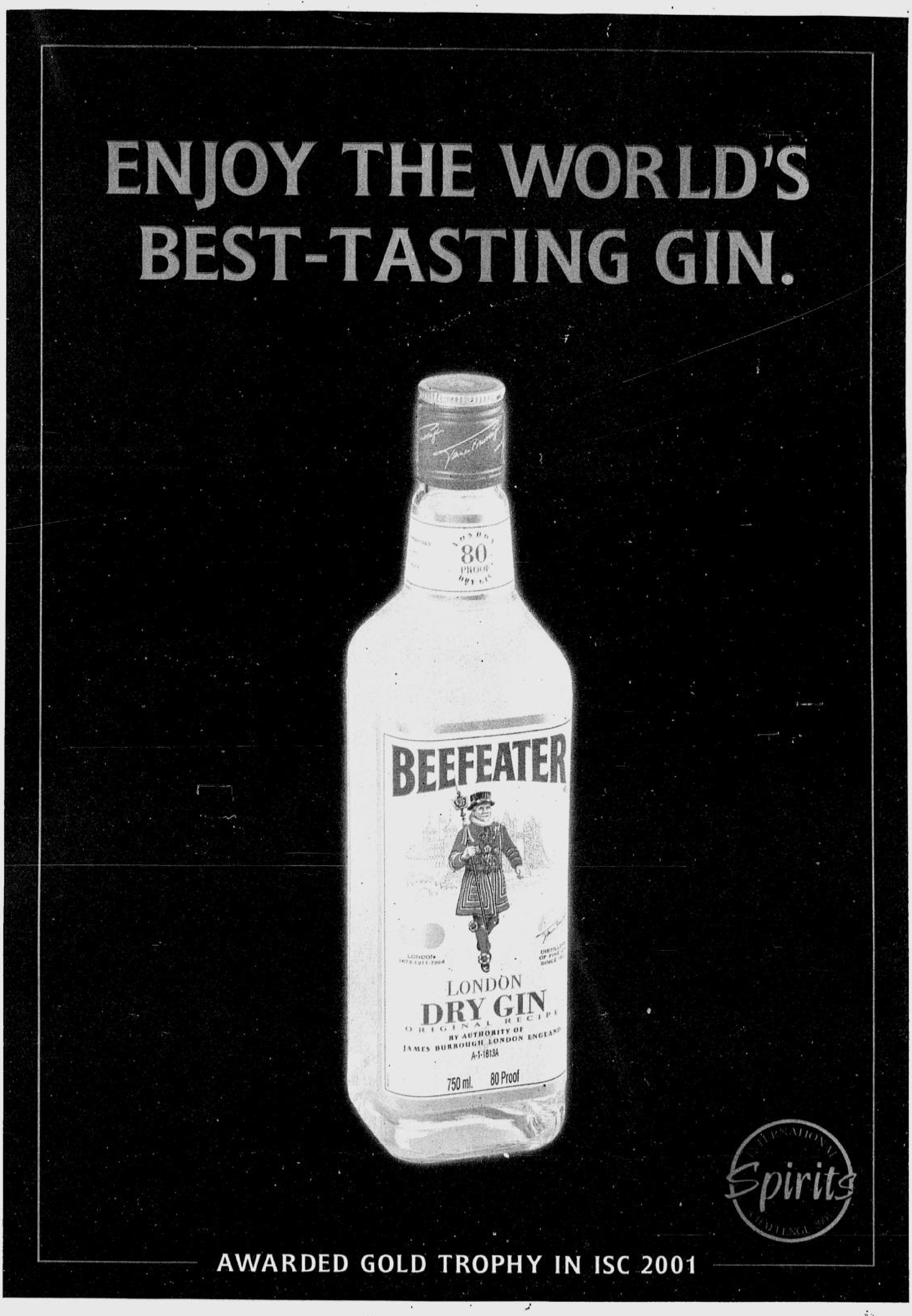

EBISU Grill's Saikoro Steak (Japanese Salpicao)

ATRIUM HOTEL's Platinum Lounge adds another offering to your favorite pica-pica for the month of November until the Yuletide Season. Sample a parade of grilled specialties and platters created by master chef Moises Borbe, complementing the low-priced offerings of wines, cocktails and beer. Atrium Hotel is at the 15/F, Lobby Lounge of Atrium Hotel, Taft Central Exchange, Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S PAPARAZZI celebrates "Carnevale di Venezia" until Dec. 2. New resident Italian chef Giuliano Ungaro takes diners on a magical culinary journey with Sardines in Carpione, Beef Tenderloin Carpaccio, Lobster and Tomato Soup, Black Ink Risotto, Ravioli with Chioggia Radicchio, Grilled Eel with Bay Leaves, Deep-fried Fish Venetian Style, Veal Trippa, Veal "Finissima," Cinnamon Parfait, Ricotta and Almond Cake. Call 633-8888, local 12738/39.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S newly appointed executive Chinese chef Andy Chan prepares a mouth-watering à la carte selection of crab dishes dubbed "Beguiling Crabs" until Nov. 30. The promo is available daily for lunch and dinner, featuring the freshest selection of crabs—steamed, fried, braised and sautéed to perfection. Call 750-8888, local 2422 and 2424.

THE PENINSULA MANILA'S executive chef Gordon Landy and Myrna Segismundo, Restaurant 9501's managing director, collaborated on a Canadian food festival. Dubbed "Flavours of Canada," a week-long festival of Canadian food which will run Nov. 16-23.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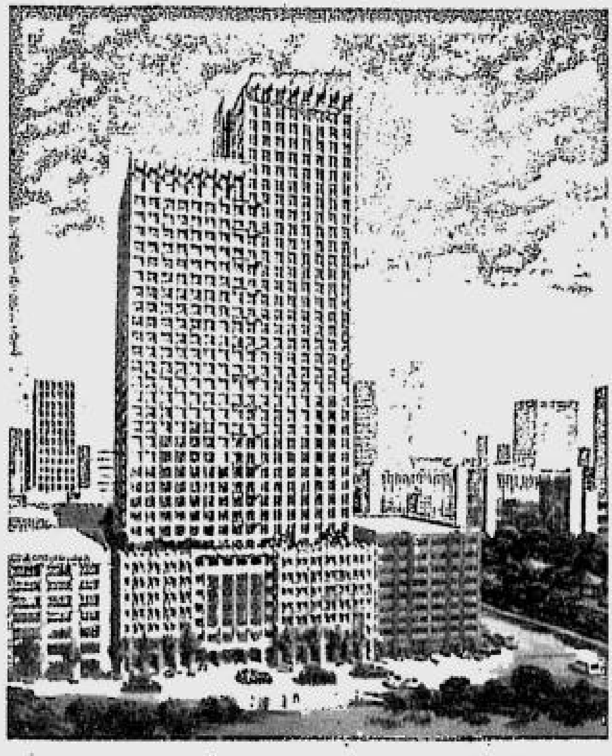

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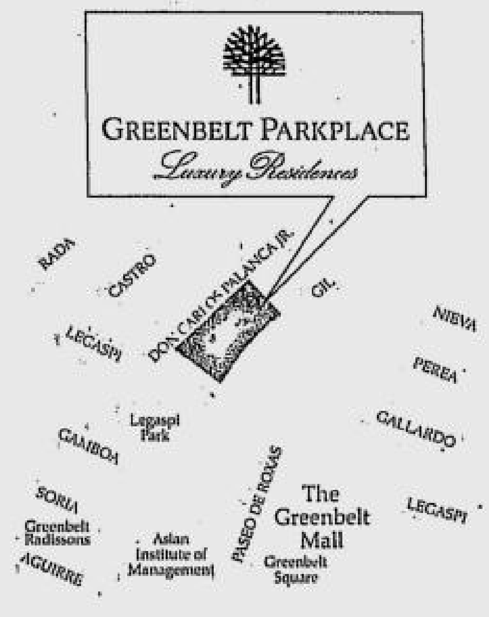
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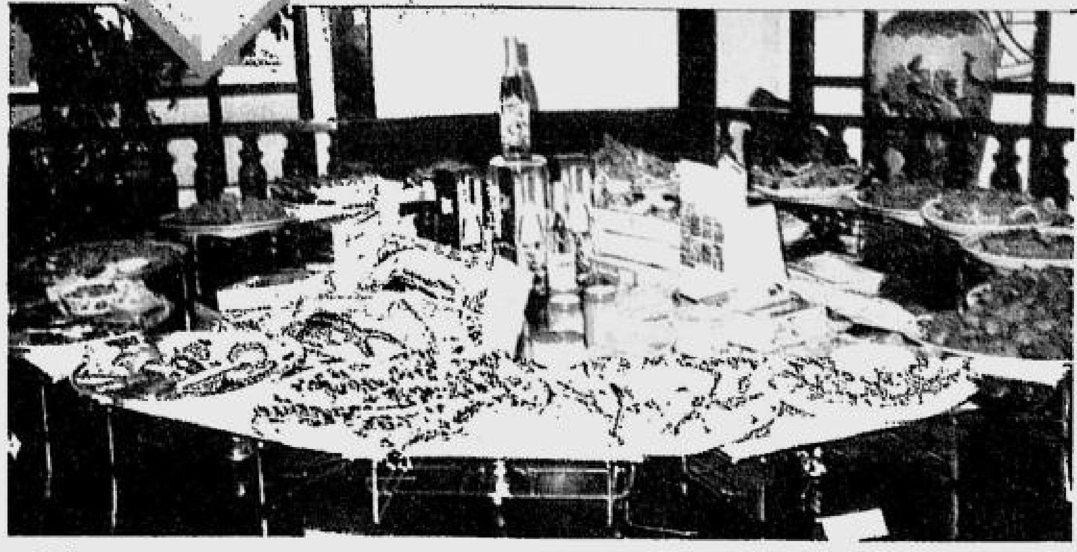

In the land of the Vikings, Filipino food reigns for a night

Scent of Pinoy cooking in Stockholm

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

THE AROMA of Pinoy food coming from the kitchen brought back memories of home among the Filipino residents of Stockholm who were invited to the "Philippine Culinary Evening cum Business Encounter" recently.

The event gathered together the major players among food suppliers, importers and distributors in Sweden to sample Filipino food first-hand.

The marketing activity—coordinated with Citem executive director Araceli Pinto-Mansor—was proposed, planned and organized by Mary Borromeo-Hedfors, head of the Philippine Trade & Investment Centre in Stockholm (PTIC-Stockholm).

Throughout the night, Pinto kept exhorting Sheila Kalfors, head and founder of Kvinnorättsforum, to put up a Filipino resto or store. Kalfors' group has taken some initiatives in encouraging business enterprise among its members. As of 1997, there were 8,500 Filipinos in Sweden

"The Thais are doing it, *natatalo tayo*," noted Pinto. "They are everywhere. Overseas Filipinos are making them rich by patronizing them. Filipinos shy away from investing."

Pinto said Filipino entrepreneurs should tap the huge market of seamen in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries. "There are 300,000 Filipino seamen all over the world who are hankering for Filipino food. We've heard that there was almost a mutiny on one of the cruise ships because the Filipino crew was prohibited from cooking their own food."

In place

Pinto said overseas Filipinos interested in selling Philippine food products could get help in sourcing from the government. "The systems are in place," added the hyperactive Citem head.

Food was flown all the way from the Philippines and supplied by the five members of the delegation. By design, which is Eli Pinto's passion, the food products complemented each other.

Lawyer Francisco Giron Jr. of Giron Foods brought *ube* and cassava powder packages and bottled *macapuno* and coconut gel for dessert. Irineo P. San Luis and son Michael San Luis of Oceanic Exports (Manila) Inc. exhibited their Tropical Delight fruit preserves, noodles, Mama Sita sauces and snack foods.

Citem's food expert and project manager, Rosemarie Tingzon-Kwan, presented on behalf of Celebes Canning Corp. samples of canned tuna products. Classified as a commodity product, tuna is exported from the Philippines and given the label by the importing company. The Philippines is next to Thailand as a world supplier of tuna, even overtaking Thailand in 1998.

Rico Villareal of Alson's Aqua Technologies, a member of Alcantara Group of Companies. served with pride boneless *bangus* in smoked, marinated and fresh frozen varieties. His frozen *bangus* belly was a big hit.

Glenda Barreto of Via Mare served her microwaveable Redi-Feast *laing, kare-kare, lumpia ubod and rellenong alimasag*. "The quality you get out of these convenient packages that cook in 5-7 minutes is as you would be served at Via Mare," she exhorted. Redi-Feast veggie dishes (*laing, nangka* and *puso ng saging*) are already being exported to Japan.

To simulate a truly festive Filipino table, Hedfors served three Filipino dishes (*adobo*, sautéed vegetables and noodles) from Stockholm-based cooks. "I wanted to concretize the tastes and flavors of the food mixes being marketed by the food delegation," said Hedfors.

Among the Swedish food indus-

SCENT/ p.D2

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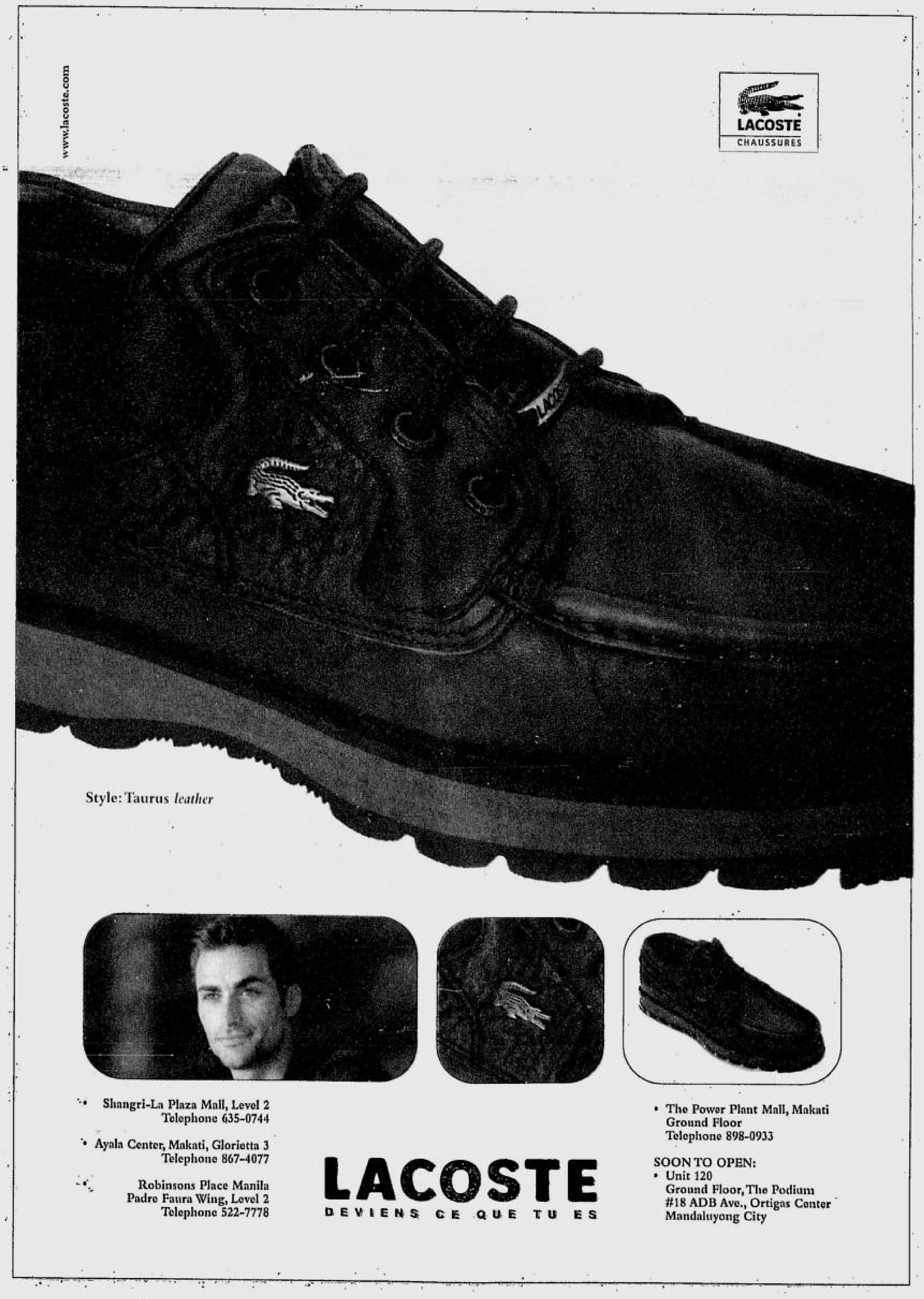

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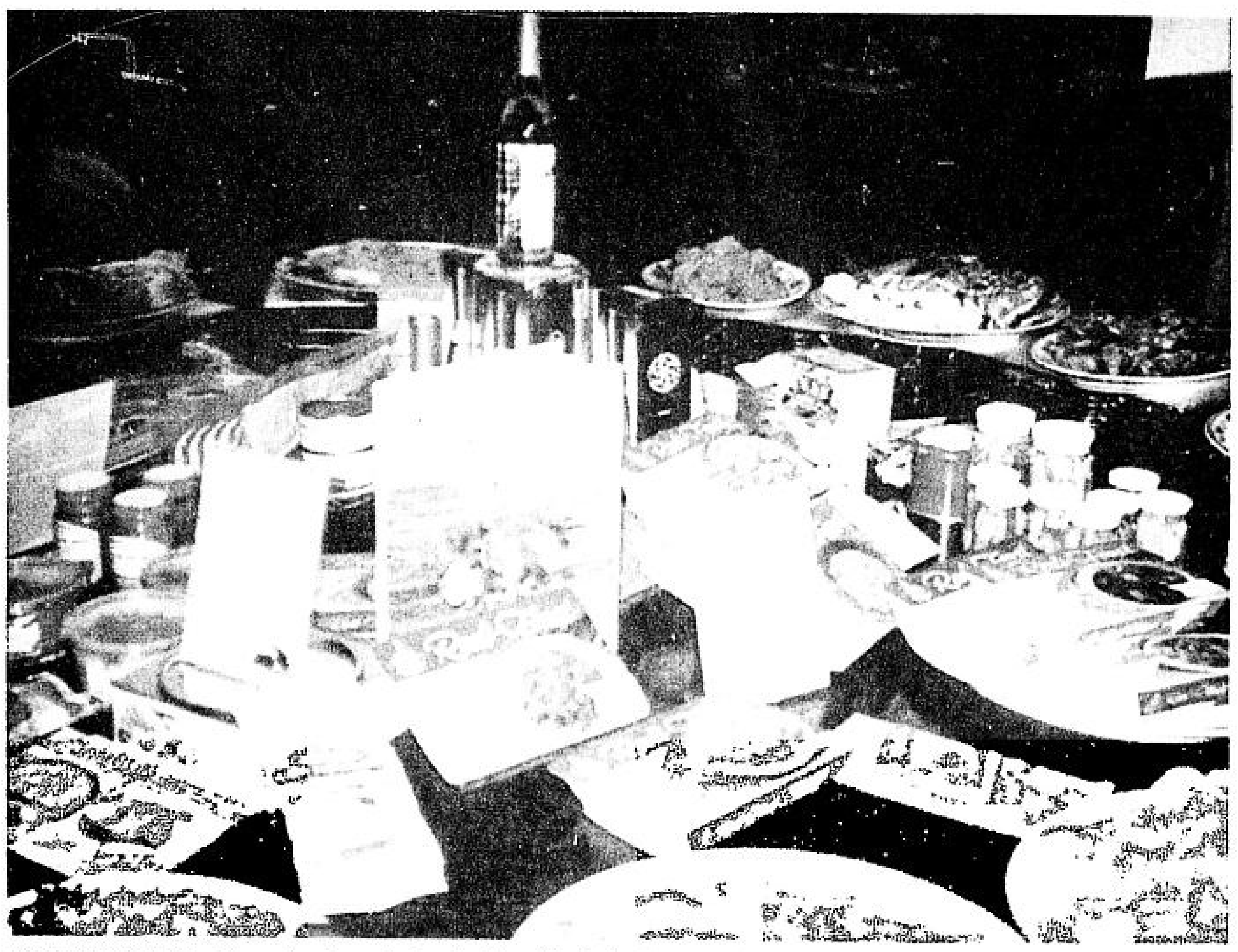
READY TO FEAST. Buyers for big Swedish food chains sample Filipino food flown into Stockholm by the Citem-led delegation that also exhibited in Frankfurt and Bergen, Germany.

Scent of Pinoy cooking in Stockholm



READY TO SELL. Pinoy food products displayed include Mama Sita's sauces, *ube* and cassava powder packs, Redi-Feast microwaveable and oven-ready food, bottled fruit preserves, canned tuna and boneless *bangus*. That's Glenda Barretto's book in the center.

(From page D1)

try VIPS who came to the event were Eric Gumabon, representing ICA, a major food chain that services 30 percent of the market in Sweden; Ingvar Ekström of AxFood, the second largest food chain; Steinar Halvorsen of UNIL, the common purchasing group of the big food chains in the Scandinavia; Per Rosengren of KF, another major food chain; Fredrik Svanberg of Gourmet Foods, representing a special niche market of oriental foods; Åke Stigner of B& S Foods, a major importer of canned tuna; Stepahn Hoffström, a free-lance journalist on discovery travel; and Sveien Dieserud, the Department of Tourism's representative in Scandinavia.

Other invitees were restaurateurs, executive and sous chefs of oriental food restaurants and other food importers.

The Filipino invitees included Sheilah Kälfors, Letty Simpson of Multi-culture Group and owner of the travel agency Air Asia; Ricky Ocampo, another travel agent and importer; the trio of Nelia Davidsson, Emy Parmozeh and Caroline Fredriksson who are seriously considering entering the restaurant business with focus on Filipino food, and other members of the Filipino community who are in the food business as traders, chefs or caterers.

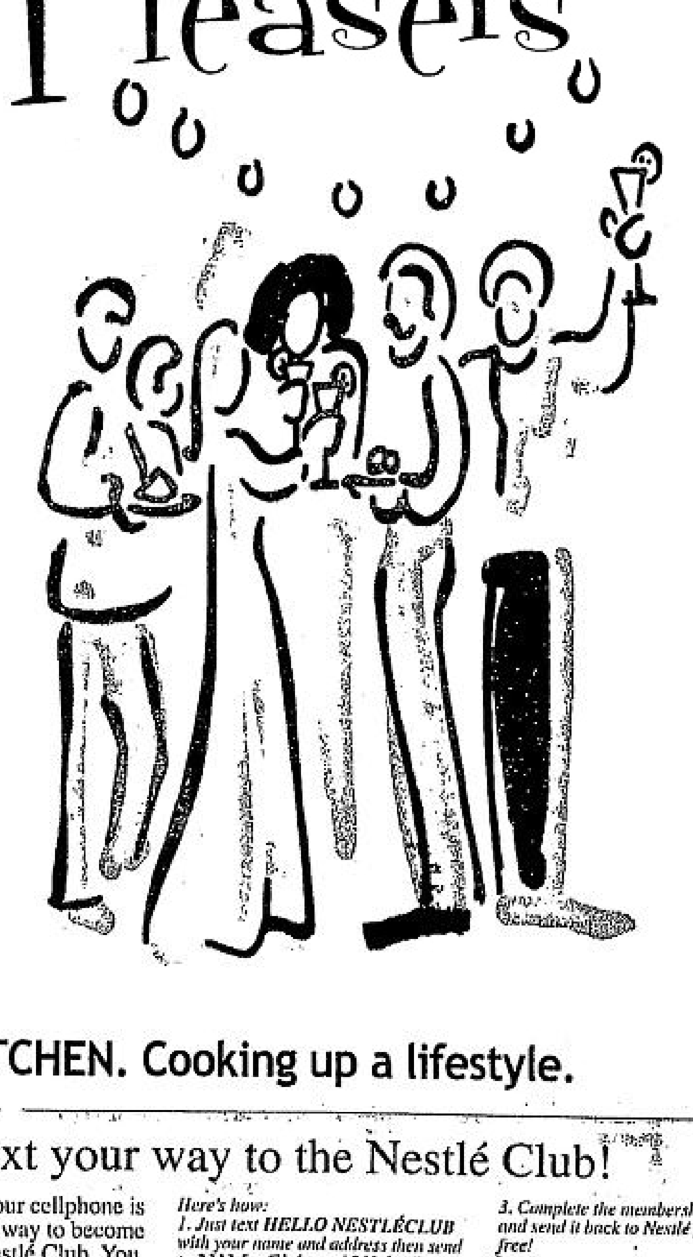
Although administratively one of the Department of Trade and Industry's 35 overseas trade posts, the PTIC is attached to the Philippine embassy and normally carries out a country team approach with the Philippine Embassy in most of the trade projects and initiatives of PTIC-Stockholm. "I enjoy excellent support from the embassy," said Hedfors.

True enough, the unassuming Philippine ambassador to the Scandinavia, Erlinda F. Basilio, graced the occasion and stayed until the last guests left.

REDI-FEAST'S stuffed crabs served individually wrapped in leaves.

CITEM'S Eli Pinto, Sheila Kalfors, an active leader in the Stockholm Filipino community, and Philippine Ambassador to Scandinavia Erlinda F. Basilio.

HOW does Via Mare's Glenda Barretto manage to emerge from an afternoon of cooking in a hot kitchen looking poised and ready to talk Swedish buyers into importing Pinoy products?



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Maya's new culinary courses

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center offers new courses in anticipation of the holiday season.

Enjoy making *cuchinta*, *sapin-sapin*, *bibingkang malagkit*, *bibingkang* cassava, Maya *bibingka* and special *ensaymada* in the Simbang Gabi Specials on Nov. 17, 1:30-5 p.m.

Learn how to cook authentic Japanese cuisine like *miso* soup, tempura, sukiyaki, kamameshi and seven different types of sushi in Japanese Cooking on Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Enroll in the Integrated Workshop on Waitering and Bartending on Nov. 21-23, 5:45-9 p.m., and on Nov. 27-29, 1:30 to 5 p.m. You will learn all you need to know about efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting, suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests, use of magic words, order-taking, table-setting standards (American, Russian and French style), setting up service station and checkpoint, serving beverage and entree, bartending basics, cocktail mixing and garnishing, and personality enhancement.

Just in time for the holiday entertaining and parties is the Catering Business course to be held on Nov. 21-23, 5:45-9 p.m. Lessons include portion control, costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing and actual preparation of popular Filipino dishes. Included in the package is the hands-on instruction on how to prepare, cook and present sumptuous dishes like *morcon*, *galantina*, pork *asado*, soy chicken, roast pork, baked macaroni, all-meat paella and special *gulaman* desserts.

Learn how to make chocolate chip cookies, crinkles, butterscotch bars, food for the gods, cappuccino thins, chocolate refrigerator cookies, in the course Holiday Cookies and Bars on Nov. 24, 1:30-5 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen at the Eighth Floor, Liberty Building, A Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

November cooking classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts at Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Mall, has announced its classes for the remaining days of November:

Nov. 19 and 21—Delicious wasabi and mustard recipes: Asian shrimp, avocado and ramen salad, wasabi dressing, chicken salad, red pepper salad with wasabi vinaigrette, tuna rice crackers with wasabi, crisp chicken strips with crispy noodles in lemon-ginger dressing, crisp shrimp with sweet mustard and hot chile garlic sauces, cod and lobster cakes with roasted corn relish, lobster pomelo salad, roasted pork chops with pineapple-mustard glaze and tempura roll with fried rice.

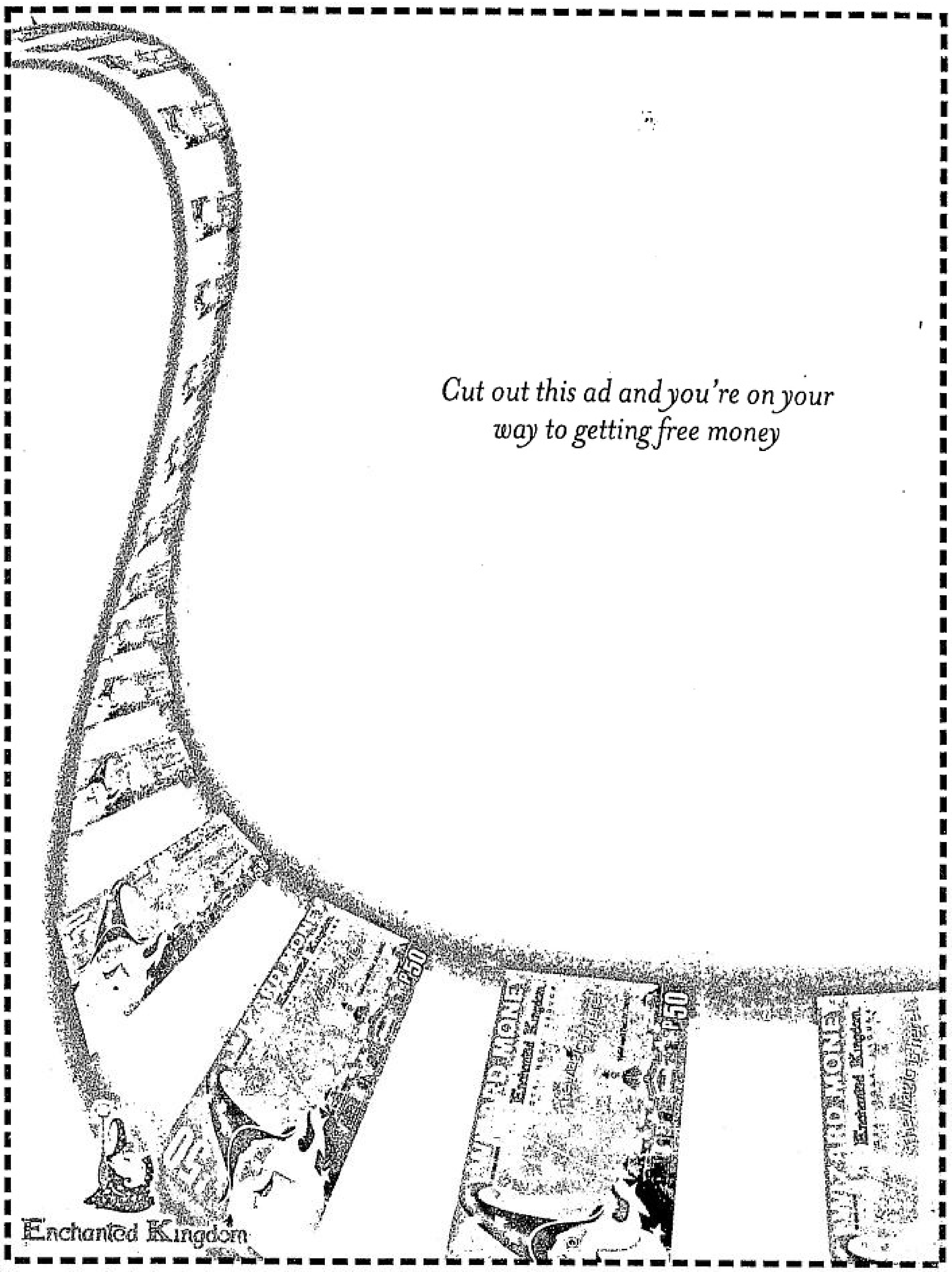
Nov. 23—Quiche, tortes, galettes and tourte: quiche spinach and shrimp, crab, vegetable, mango tart tatin, goat cheese tart with prosciutto and figs, tourte de blettes (sugared vegetable pie) and croute raphaelolse (fish-mushroom pie).

Nov. 24—Chowders: clam, fish and oyster. Corn with herbed purée. Salads: veal Milanese with watercress, sea bass and mixed fruit, herb grilled chicken and bread salad, salami foccacia salad with arugula, mixed greens and lemon dressing.

Nov. 26—Fondues: meat, chicken and seafood with six fondue sauces, and fruit with chocolate truffle sauce.

Nov. 28—Black pasta variations: black pasta with chilled mussels, cilantro shrimps on black pasta, black pasta with squid in olive oil, dried chillies and basil julienne, black and white pasta with sea urchin and caviar sauce, black and white pasta with squid ink pomodoro.

Nov. 30—Free cooking demo at 10 a.m. and potluck Christmas lunch.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Makati Sales Office: Amtrust Leisure Corporation G/F, Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City · Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna · Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 17, 843-6073 to 78
Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore Branches, Tower Records (Makati, Alabang), Robinson's Dept. Stores (Galleria, Manila), Ticketworld Head Office.

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Just clip this ad, bring it to our Makati Sales Office (G/F Tropical Palms Condominium, 103 dela Rosa st., Makati), or the Enchanted Kingdom front gate ticket counter, and we'll give you P50 Wizard Money, absolutely free, for every Weekday Ride-All ticket you buy! The more tickets you buy, the more free money you get!

Or text us today!

You can also avail of your free P50 Wizard Money by texting us.

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Wait for the reply text, save it, and present it to our Makati Sales Office or the Enchanted Kingdom front gate ticket counter, and you can avail of our weekday offer.
*If you receive a text message saying you can avail of the Weekend offer and you prefer the Weekday offer, simply repeat the texting process until you get the reply you prefer.

Globe texters are encouraged to also text in their feedback on Enchanted Kingdom. Just send to the same number as above.
**Text messages sent will be charged the normal rate.

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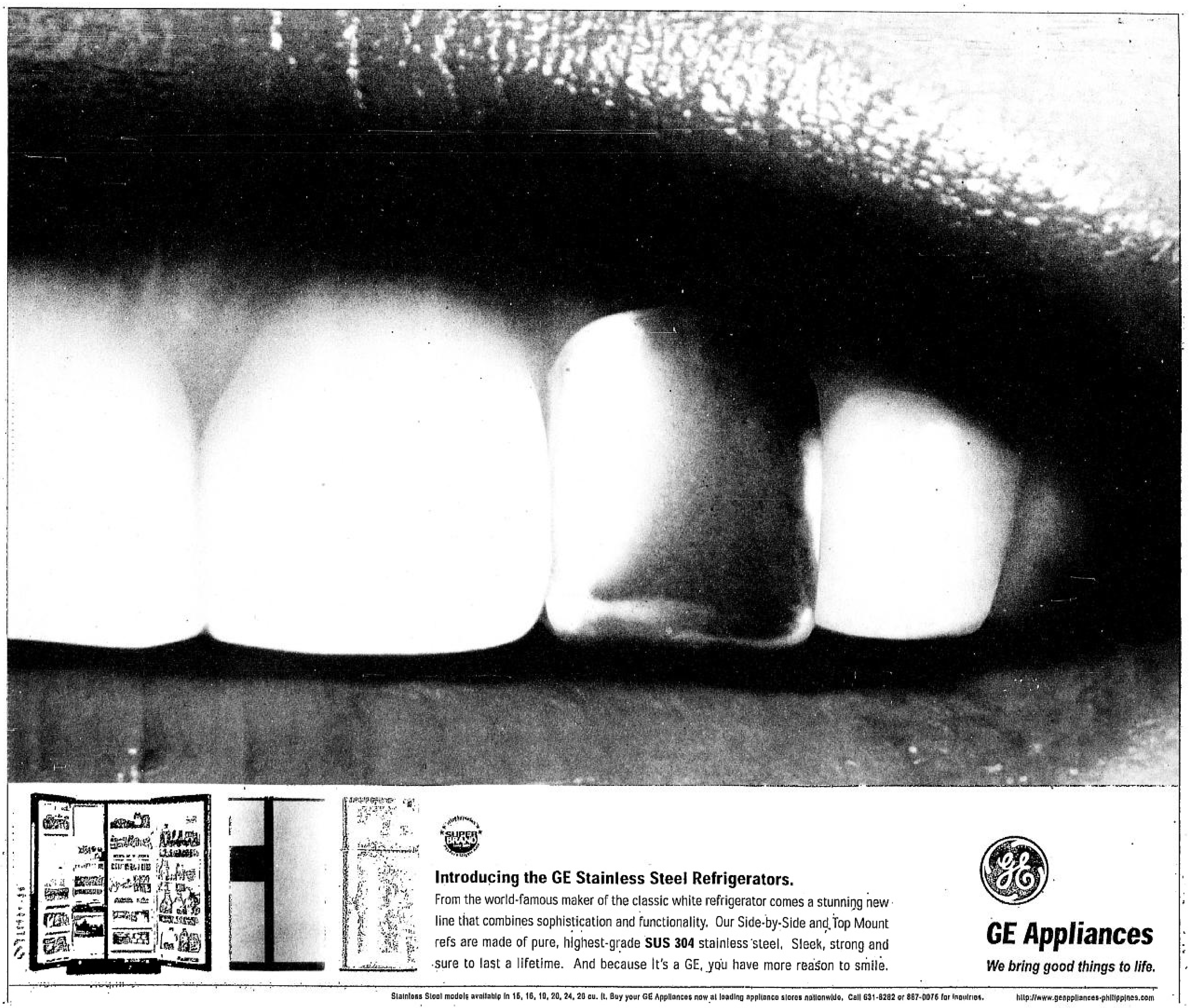
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Food Choices Promo
Buy any 16oz, 20oz, or 24oz of Coca-Cola Vendo Products on Nov. 16, from 6-10pm, and get a Coke tumbler for free.

Microsoft XP Madness
Get big discounts on Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition, with every purchase of P1,000 made on Nov. 16 - Dec. 10. Stores located at Greenbelt Mall ground floor, Glorietta 4 second level, and Glorietta 2 third level (eLounge).

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Freestyle - Nov, 16, 7pm at the Activity Center.

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Free Concerts at the Town Plaza
Apo Hiking Society - Nov. 16, 6pm.
Eraserheads - Nov. 17, 6pm.

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Say it with food

A FOOD gift is almost always correct, proper for almost all ages, and most welcome. It speaks volumes, too: a bottle of imported whiskey brings different messages from those of a rare cake made by a home expert, or the *leche flan* one's grandmother makes of carabao's milk and *dayap* rind. And in these days of crisis and tension, a food gift conveys comfort and good wishes, even affection, welcome elements in our days and holidays.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

Cloud 9 a.k.a. Tayag. From the etheria of Cloud 9 (after which Claude Tayag was named) come even more imaginative and recognizable food products. Called Claude's House Specialties, these started last year with a line of bottled sauces concocted in his home kitchen in Angeles, Pampanga: Pesto, Chicken Inasal Marinade, Balo-balo, Taba ng Talangka, XXXO, Green Chili Sauce and Sesame Paste (all-natural ingredients, preservative-free).

Then came a sausage parade, *longganisas* stuffed with Chicken Inasal, Chicken Adobo, Pork Adobo, Pork XXXO, Beef Salpicao and Bistek Baka (again preservative-free, all-natural ingredients). He is thus playing variations on our native *longganisas*, which are generally pork prepared *de recado* or *hamonado* (sweet), and more rarely, beef or chicken. His are stuffed with, in effect, *ulam*: chicken *inasal*, which is spit-grilled chicken flavored with *calamansi*, *achuete*, *tuba* vinegar and *tanglad*; chicken and pork *adobo* with a garlic flavor; Pork XXXO superhot with sun-ripened chili, dried scallops, Chinese ham, dried shrimps and spices; beef *salpicao* with garlic and olive oil; *bistek baka* with soy sauce, *calamansi* and onion. (All these are available at all Bon Appetit and Rustan's Supermarkets.)

> Something you cooked yourself, or bought especially for someone, conveys comfort and good wishes, even affection, welcome elements in our days and holidays

Sweets for dieters. Guilt-free desserts (call Lisa or Jennifer at 631-7434 or [0917] 528-2707 and give two to three days advance notice; pick up orders at 93 Castrillo St., Corinthian Gardens, QC) has a long line of low-fat and sugar-free products (call for a complete listing).

One of the newest products is sugar-free Lean and Lite Cheesecake, sweetened with aspartame; 60-percent less fat and calories plus 50-percent less cholesterol than a regular cheesecake. It is silky, smooth and topped with fresh fruits in season like mango, kiwi or strawberry. The graham cracker crust, they warn, bears some refined sugar from the crackers. This cheesecake can be made with real sugar, while remaining low-fat.

There is also chocolate syrup sweetened with malitol and aspartame—a topping for waffles, pancakes, fresh fruit and ice cream, for the chocolate-starved dieter.

Ham for Christmas. "I can't have Christmas without Majestic Ham!" wailed a mother who had lost the address (641 R.O. Santos St., Mandaluyong City 1550; tel. 532-0709, 533-8567, 534-3056; fax 719-2077; e-mail askus@majesticham.com). The signature formula has been unchanged since 1908, and includes six months of processing. The reservation period for Christmas is from July to Nov. 30.

My late husband Wili and I have had a long relationship with Majestic Ham. For the holidays he always ordered whole legs of baked ham as presents for his two brothers Tito and Ching—remembering their childhood Christmases—and for close friends. Ham freak that I am, I was always running into their store or supermarket stands for a few slices, or for ham

SAY/ p.E3

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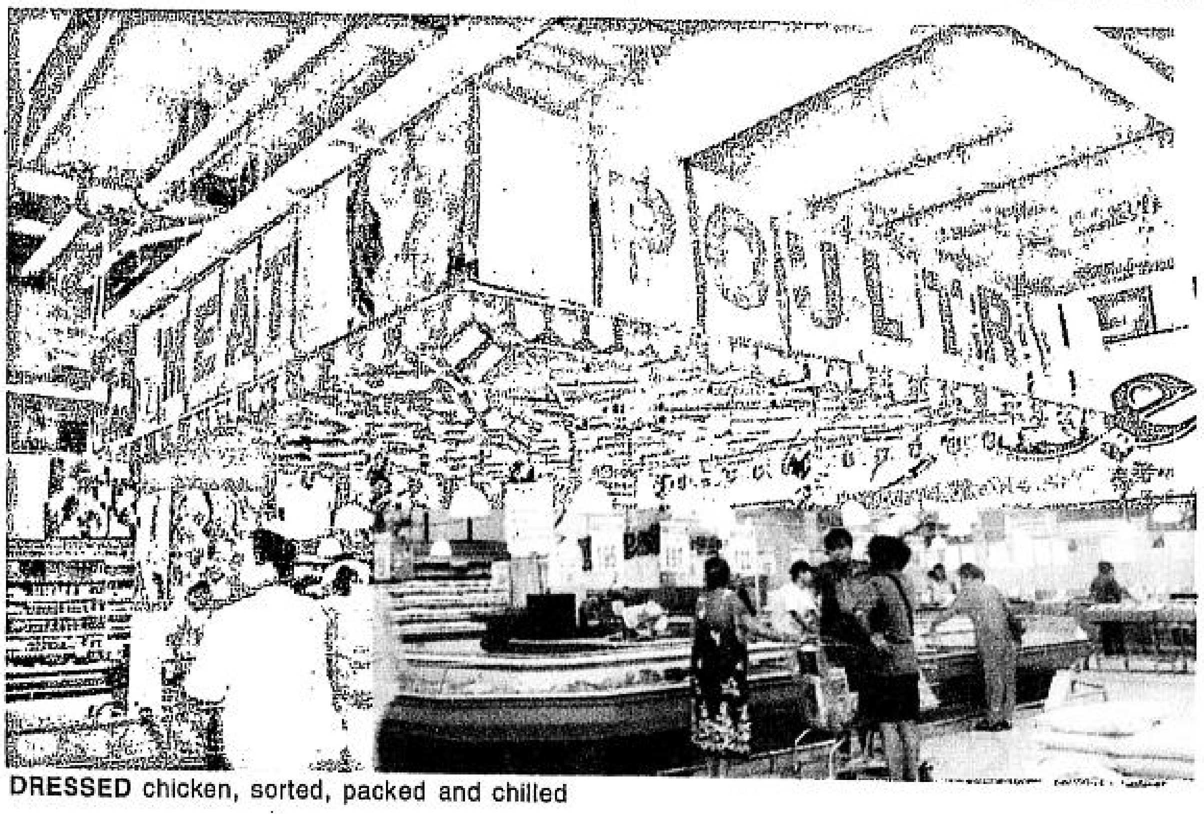
HILFIGER

FRESH fish and other seafood are delivered very early in the morning, just in time for Big R's 7 a.m. opening.



DRESSED chicken, sorted, packed and chilled

Shopping haven east of Eden

THOSE who live east of Metro Manila, in the towns that have been subject to episodes of neglect and derision, will be happy to know that a Robinsons mall is opening tomorrow on Marcos Highway, right where Uniwide used to stand.

Robinsons Metro East (RME) is the answer to the long wait for a major mall to service the bedroom communities of Marikina, Cainta, Cogeo, Pasig, Taytay, Tanay, Montalban and Antipolo. Residents there can now rediscover the pleasures of shopping without having to struggle with traffic.

The A-B villagers in the area (mostly in Antipolo) can heave a sigh of relief that they don't have to go all the way to Ortigas or Makati to do their Christmas shopping. Mossimo, Naf Naf, U2, Esprit, Levi's, Nike Stadium, Planet Sports, the kids' apparel store Gingersnaps, the imported men's shirt shop Arrow, as well as Bench, Herbench, Human, PCX and Dimensione are slated to open, if they have not yet opened, to satisfy cravings for branded and top-quality goods. The five-level mall is accessible by car at each level.

The big magnet is, of course, the Big R Supercenter, which is a pioneer in the hypermart business. Open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Big R covers approximately 10,000 sq m of the mall's first level.

Besides its bakery that sells freshly baked breads and pastries and ready-to-eat counters, where customers can buy roasted chicken, Cebu *lechon*, dimsum and other food to go, the store has a clothing and accessories section and an appliance depot.

But what makes Big R deserving of a big welcome are its fresh produce, seafood and meat sections. You can't get your fish cleaned here as you can at a wet market, but, as marketing services manager Lorna Tamayo points out, you get them cheaper. And you get them where it's convenient because you're already there. You don't have to hie off to another place for fish, meat and veggies.

IT wouldn't be a Robinsons mall without a big fountain of dancing water.

Food outlets

According to Luigi Gimenez, lease manager for RME, the first Philippine franchise of Popeye's, US-based chicken outlet, is opening at RME. And, at long last, favorite family restaurants like Tokyo Tokyo and Pancake House will become part of the dining landscape in this part of town.

There is a Medicine Corner on Level 1, and another on Level 2, to complete the Robinsons Retail quartet of Big R Supercenter, Robinsons Department Store and The Handyman.

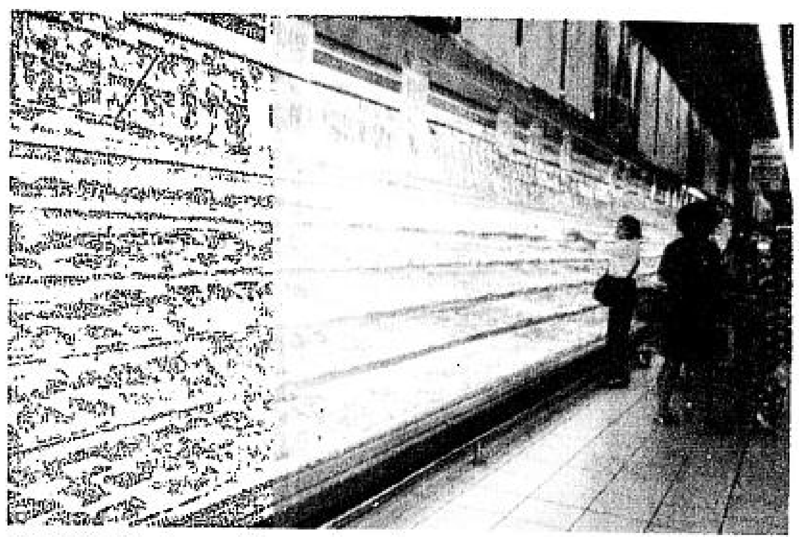
Globe Telecom, ABC Telecom, Topwin Telecom and Megacellular will make cell phone shopping and service payment more accessible. Talk about sign of the times.

On the second and third levels of the mall is the Robinsons Department Store, a shopping haven that carries clothes, shoes and fashion accessories, toys, home needs and gift items, not to mention a Bayad Center where you can pay all sorts of bills.

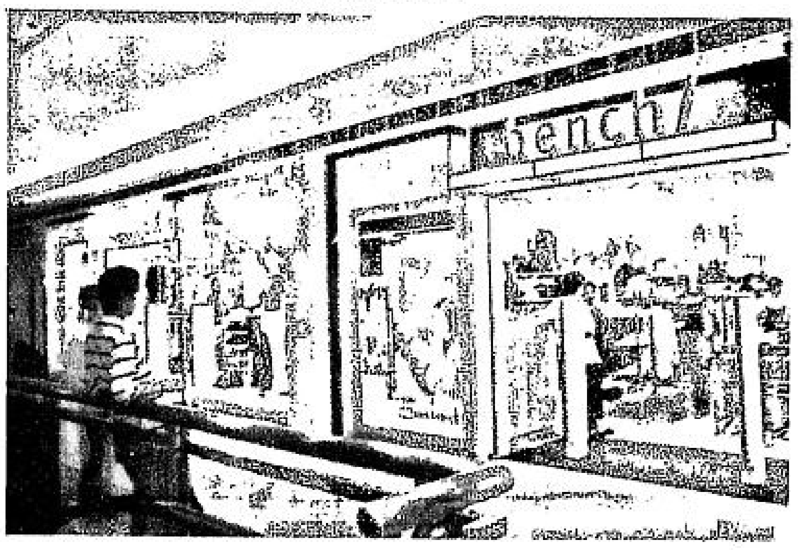
Robinsons Movieworld in time will inaugurate eight state-of-the-art cinemas located on the fifth level. As it is important to keep the children occupied, there will be an entertainment center for them with a video arcade and a play area.

The RME looks small and it is small in land area compared to the other malls, but its five levels of sundry shops, with the signature Robinsons fountain in the center, should have enough surprises for mallgoers of all ages.

Chelo Banal-Formoso



PRECUT fresh meat in neat packages



East Metro Manilans are set to rediscover the joys of mall shopping with the opening of Robinsons Metro East

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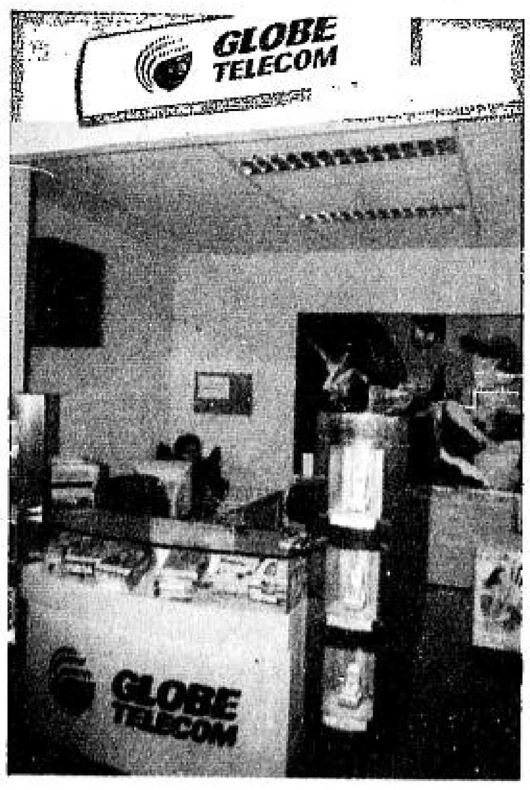
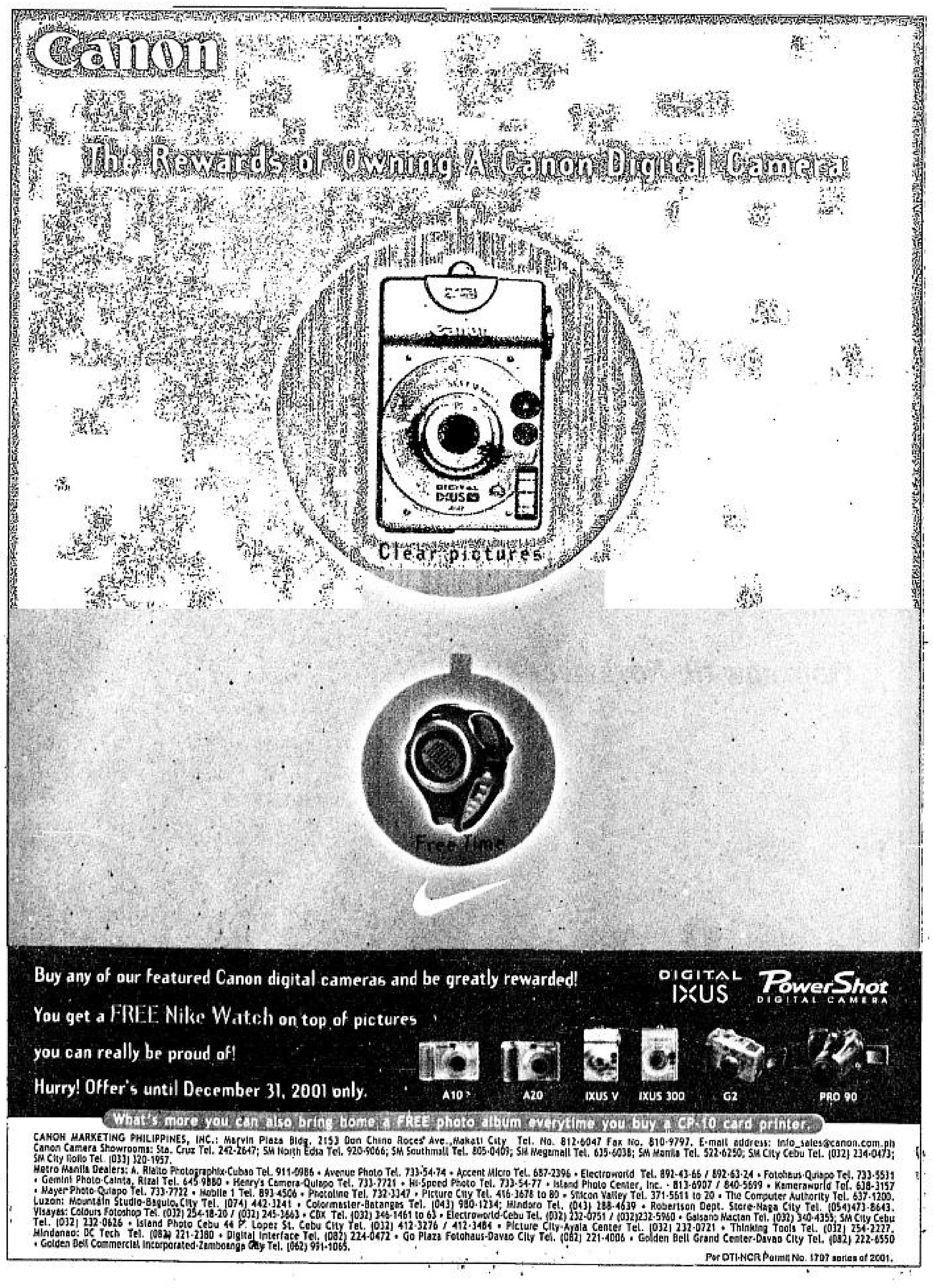
OVER 120 shops selling apparel, drugs, sports gear, cell phones and other temptations





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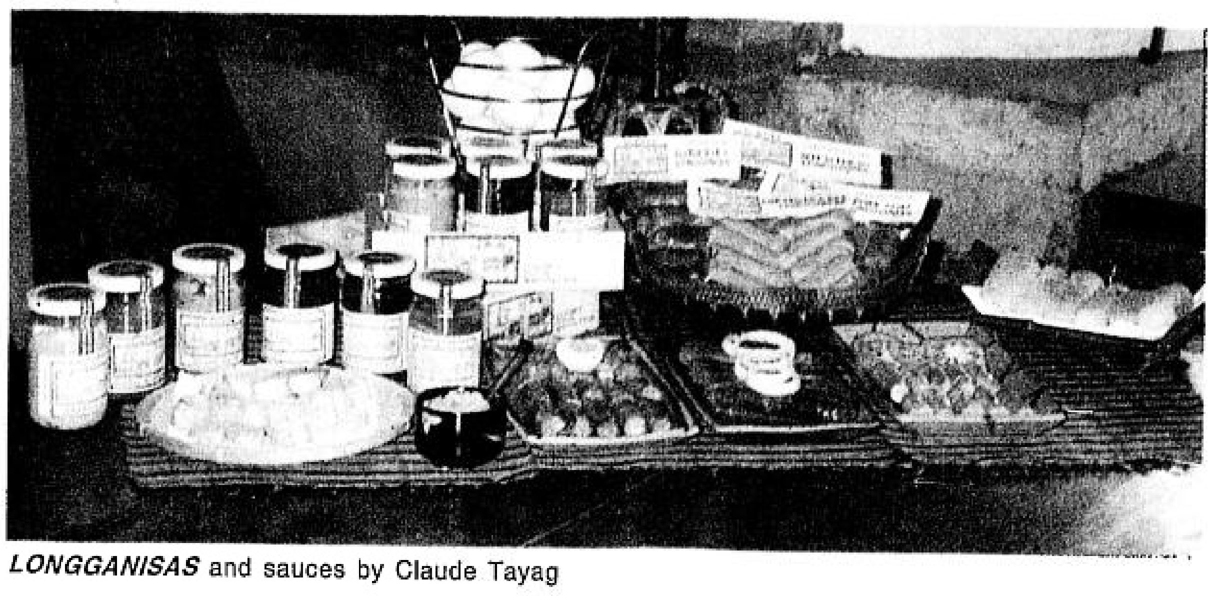
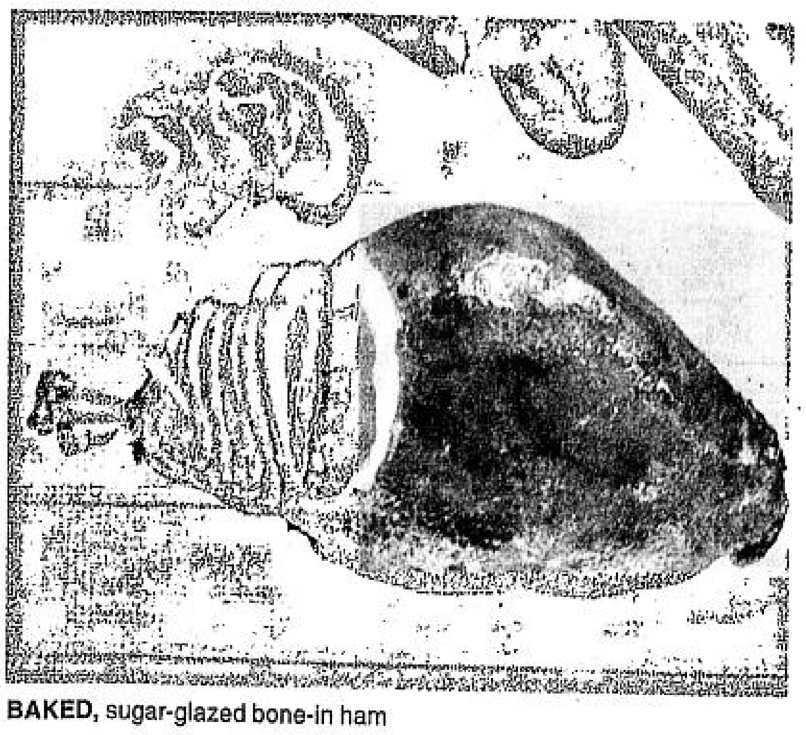
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1707 series of 2001.

Say it with food

(From page E1)


LONGGANISAS and sauces by Claude Tayag


BAKED, sugar-glazed bone-in ham

FAT and sassy sausages

bits, to flavor food.

Most recently, I dropped by for sliced ham to put in hot *pan de sal* sandwiches with *kesong puti* (ambrosia to me). Remember, though, to tell the counter people how thin you want the slices; paper-thin would have been ideal, but I forgot to specify, and got slices too thick for sandwiches, and too thin for ham steaks.

Offered now are whole bone-in ham, ham bits, ham bone, sliced or chunk ham, and a caravan of bottled sauces and condiments (Honey Mustard, Herb & Garlic, and Honey & Herb sauces; Toasted Garlic, Chili Soy Paste); Ham Jerky (ham shreds, seasoned and ready to eat), Special Beef Tapa, All-meat Sausage, Turkey Ham and Turkey Longganisa.

Do remember that the traditional hams of our Christmases are: *jamon China* (formerly Hoc Shiu Chinese ham), *jamon en funda* ("in a pillow case or cloth sacks) or *jamon en dulce* (sugar-glazed) Spanish style; American canned boneless ham, which is milder and on the sweet side, good for sandwiches and ham steaks.

Many go far the best Spanish (*jamon Serrano*), Italian (Parma), German (Westphalian) and bone-in American (Smithfield is close to Spanish ham). And then there are the homemade hams. My mother used to cure her own when we lived in Silay, Negros Occidental; recently my *apo*, Marc Besa, learned to make ham in cooking lessons with Chef Ed Quimson.

If you must have ham for Christmas, there are many choices, and no excuses not to have it.

Micky's sources. Friend, food writer and editor, and family cook Micky Fenix shares her personal sources: for native chicken, Aranque market or the Farmers Market in Cubao. The eggs of the free-range, nonpoultry chicken she likes for *tinola* and *adobo*. She often cooks the native chickens the Waray way: *hinatukang manok*, with coconut milk and chicken blood in the broth, with the liver, the best part, reserved for the king of the house.

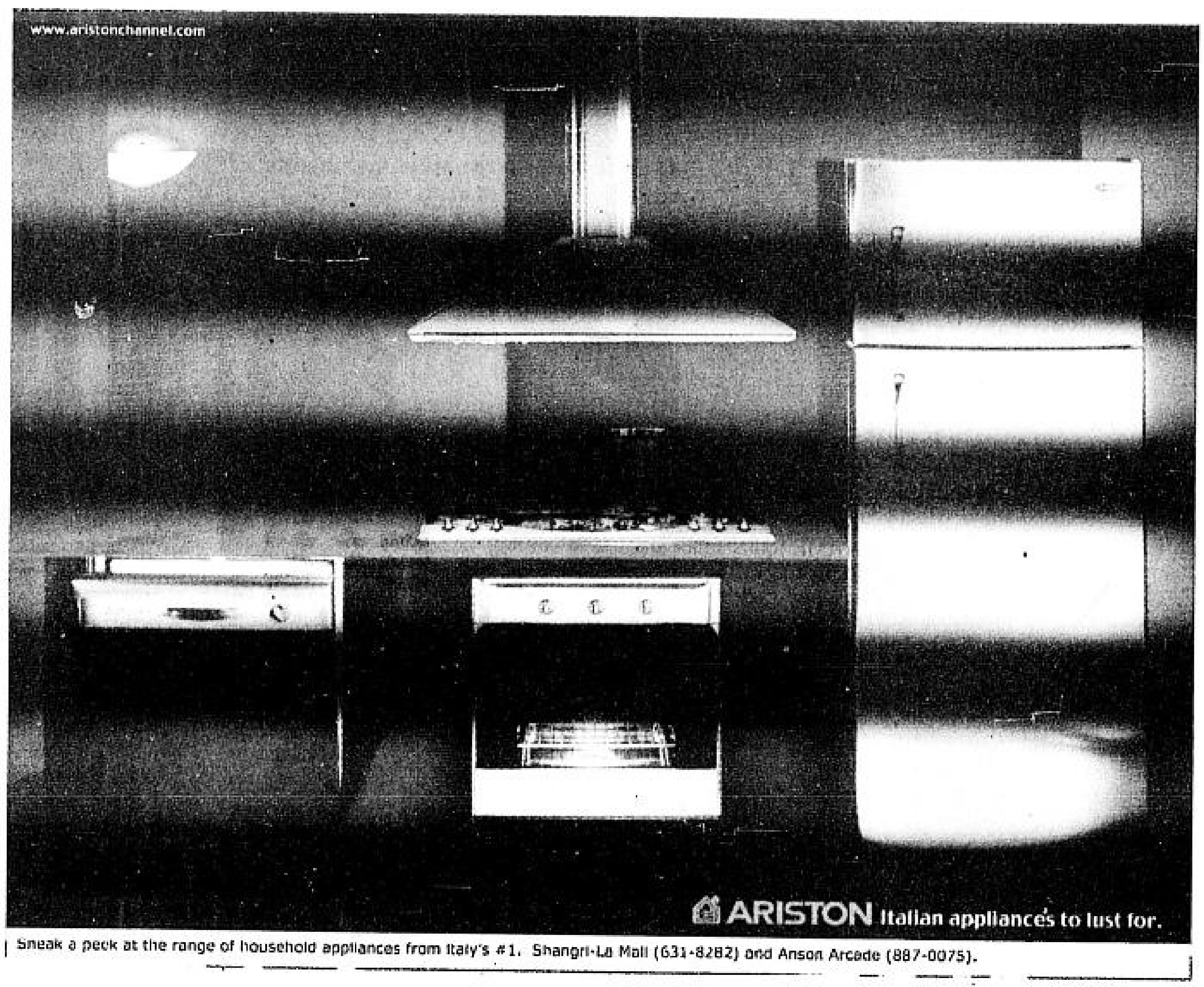
A stall at Tropical Hut in Quezon City Micky patronizes for *kakanin* like *puto* and *bibingka*, also *kesong puti*, and on Sundays *gatas ng kalabao*. Merced Bakeshop is also a source for *kesong puti*, the best *pastillas de leche* from Bulacan (huge, she says), and *pan de bonete*, the old-style Spanish bread shaped like an ice cream cone.

Indeed, we can say so much, and in so many ways, with food.

Spicy tandem at Domino's

DOMINO'S has introduced Baked Hot Wings and Muncheese, tender chicken wings generously wrapped in spice and special ingredients set side by side with cheese-flavored potato nuggets, a unique combination of salty, sharp and creamy tastes.

Baked Hot Wings and Muncheese come with the all-time favorite Domino's Wild Dippin' sauce. This special tandem is a great complement to pizza and makes an excellent side dish for lunch, dinner or group get-togethers. It is also a great alternative to Domino's other side favorites such as Wild Wings, Potato Tots and Baked Spaghetti.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The Feminine Facts Series

Empowering The Filipina through Education

FACT # 4 A PAP SMEAR IS ONLY 51% ACCURATE DEPENDING ON THE COLLECTION TECHNIQUE AND THE LABORATORY. THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT CAN INCREASE ITS ACCURACY TO 90%.

Part 1 of this series introduced cervical cancer as a pressing women's health issue in the Philippines today, being the second most-occurring cancer in women (next to breast cancer). The discussion included the present status of cervical cancer in the nation. Part 2 then provided information on how the disease can be detected, that is, through either of three ways: acetic wash, coloscopy, or the most recommended test, the Pap smear. Part 3 then tackled the various treatments for the dreaded disease, including average costs for each.

Part 4 will now provide insights on the accuracy of the Pap smear and how it can be dramatically improved.

Why may the Pap Smear be only 51% accurate?

By way of review, the Pap smear is the collection of cervical surface cells - this is called the smear specimen - through a gentle scraping of the cervix with the use of a cervical spatula or brush among others. The specimen is then smeared onto a glass slide and sent to a laboratory for careful inspection under a microscope for the presence of abnormal cells. As reported in the circular of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *ACOG Today*, a single Pap smear may miss nearly half of the lesions present on the cervix. The Pap Smear is also completely reliant on exfoliated cell samples. The lesions below the surface cannot be sampled, and those that do not exfoliate abnormal cells will not be detected.

At other times, the spatula may totally miss areas containing abnormal cells. And in the transfer from spatula to slide, it is a possibility that only healthy cells are transferred to the slide.

So how can I be sure that my Pap Smear is accurate?

You should only expect the most accurate and immediate results from any tests done to your body, especially from a Pap smear. After all, you are subjecting yourself to a process that some even deem intrusive. A revolutionary testing device called PapSure™ was developed to dramatically increase the accuracy of present Pap smear tests from 51% to 90%.

What is PapSure™ and how does it work?

PapSure™ is a special device that your ob-gyne can use to visually examine the surface of your cervix. By using advanced light technology (the "Speculite"™), and by combining it with the traditional Pap smear, your doctor can see abnormal or suspicious areas that may escape even laboratory testing.

The test is performed following a Pap smear. The cervix is washed with a 3% acetic acid. The examiner then visually examines the cervix using the Speculite™, a small, chemical-based disposable light source, and a magnification instrument. This special light is activated before vaginal insertion by bending the flexible outer plastic capsule, releasing an activator in an inner vial and creating non-toxic chemical illumination. The Speculite™ is then attached to the speculum and, when inserted, provides the light source necessary for the visual exam. Doctors look for distinct whitened areas that are tell-tale signs of abnormalities.

How does PapSure™ guarantee the accuracy of my Pap Smear?

The light source allows the illumination of the cervix from all sides, so the doctor can view cells at and below the surface of the cervix. Normal cervical tissue appear dark blue or purple. Potentially cancerous areas appear bright white due to larger, denser cell nuclei found in diseased cells that reflect light back. This potentially life-saving procedure takes two minutes at the most.

Although the Pap smear, developed in 1928, has done much to reduce the death rate from cervical cancer, it is also limited. An average sample obtained during a Pap smear will contain between 300,000 to 500,000 cells. Of these, roughly 20% will end up on the slide to be analyzed and as few as 20 cells may actually display signs of cancer. It is still possible that existing cancerous cells may not be scraped from the lining of the cervix, may not be included in the slide sample, or may be missed entirely during examination. PapSure™ helps doctors find cervical disease even when abnormal cells are not collected.

PapSure™ has been thoroughly researched for over a decade with 12,000 patients in the US at 50 study centers and in 8 peer-reviewed papers. It has been tested in UC Irvine, UCLA, Harbor-UCLA, and USC. It has also been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US.

How much will a PapSure™ test cost me?

The PapSure would only cost an additional P399.95 for the Speculite™ aside from the basic Pap smear fee.

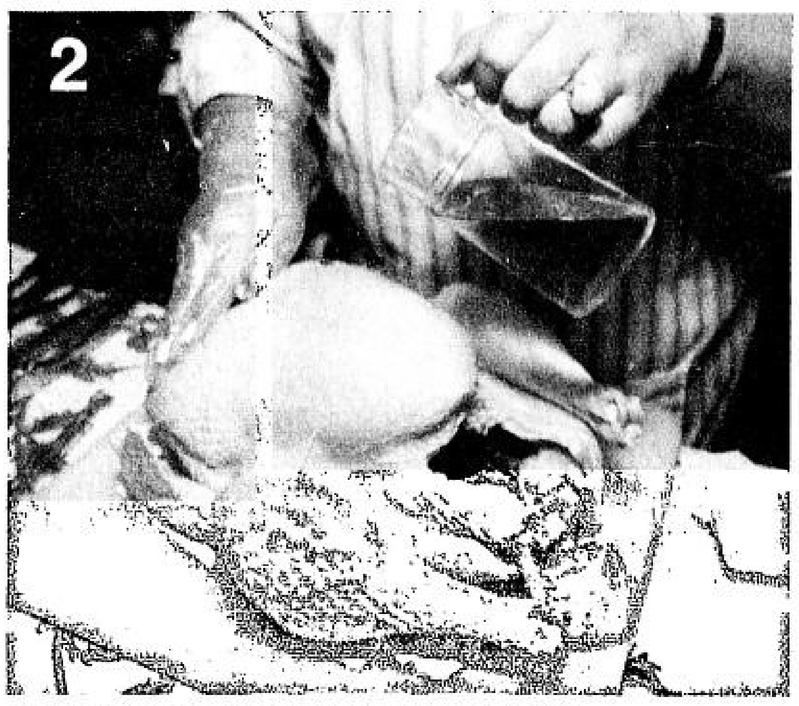
One should only bear in mind the high cost of cervical cancer treatment (you may refer to Part 2 of this series), not to mention the threat of one's life on the line, to be convinced that PapSure™ is a wise investment. Early detection of cervical cancer means earlier intervention and quicker, simpler, more successful treatments. This only means that it IS POSSIBLE to SAVE YOUR LIFE or of THOSE YOU LOVE from this deadly disease.

This completes the first Feminine Facts Series on cervical cancer. You now have the tools to take charge of your cervical health or of those you love. Pass this article on to friends and relatives, so they too can secure a healthy future.

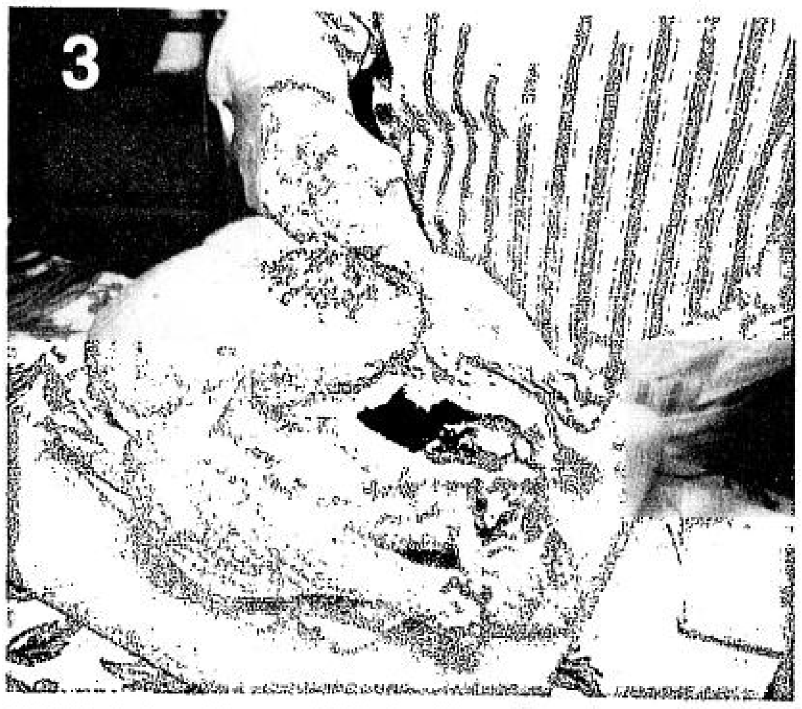
If you are interested in a complete set of this four-part series, send a stamped, self-addressed legal envelope to: The FEMININE FACTS Series Secretariat, Marco Polo Medical Systems, Inc., G-12 & 13, San Jose Condominium, Maginoo cor. Masigla Sts., Diliman, Quezon City. You may reach the Secretariat through telephone numbers 434-6625 to 26.

For further questions about cervical health, contact Dr. Cecilia A. Llave, M.D. at the UP-PGH Cancer Institute, through telephone numbers 526-6953 and 521-8450 loc. 3928, or e-mail her at cipgh0@lycos.com.

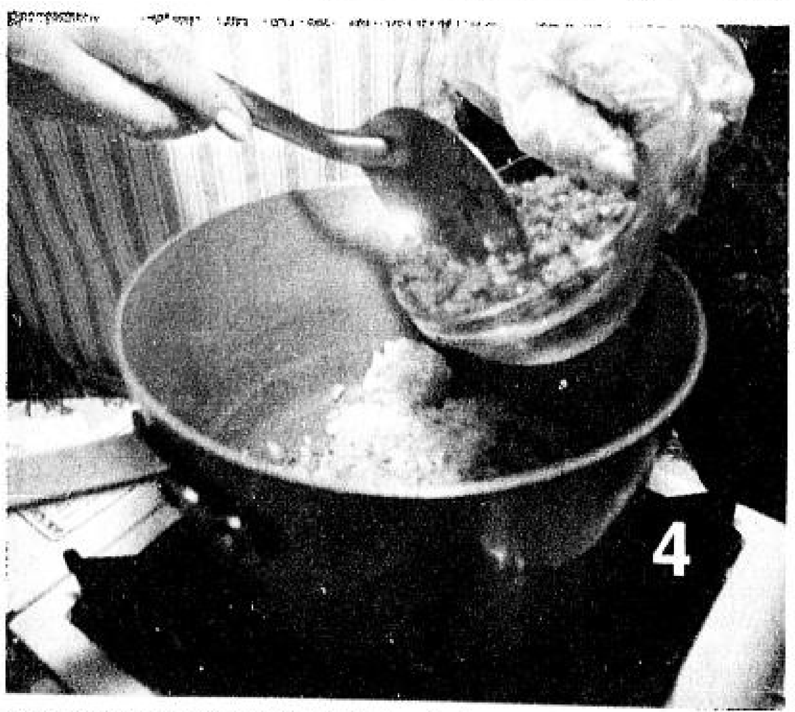
The FEMININE FACTS Series is a joint effort of the UP-PGH Cancer Institute and Marco Polo Medical Systems.



SEASON turkey with salt, pepper and white wine.

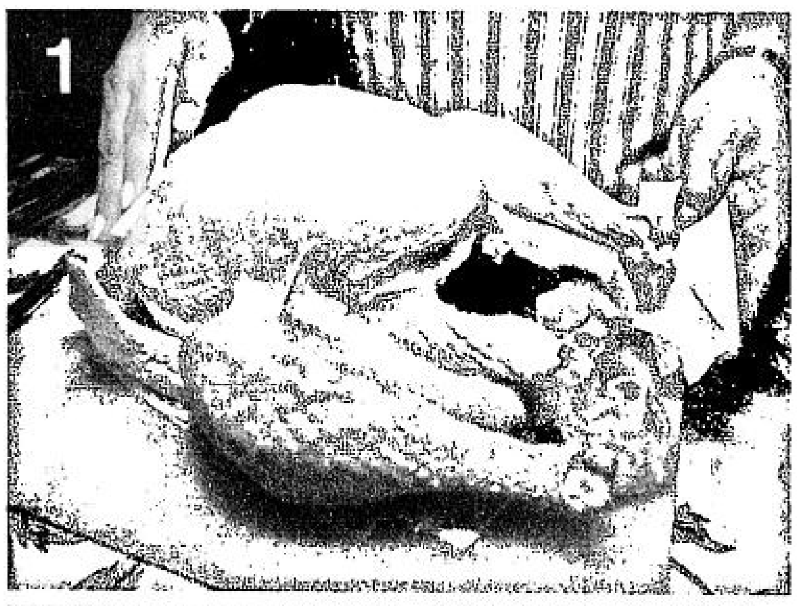


RUB the turkey all over with herb mixture. Set aside.



PREPARE the stuffing: Melt butter in heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add *chorizo* and onion. Cook for about 5 minutes. Then remove from heat. Mix in the bread, chestnuts, chicken broth, parsley, sage and thyme. Season with salt and pepper. Let cool for 30 minutes. (To save time: Prepare the stuffing the day before and refrigerate.)

Wild about turkey



PREHEAT oven to 425ºF (220ºC). Position a rack in the bottom third of the oven. Oil a V-shaped rack in a roasting pan. Then remove the neck, gizzard and heart of the turkey. Rinse the bird in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.

Try a little Americana—stuff and roast a turkey

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

ON NOV. 22, Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Although Thanksgiving Day is purely an American holiday, some Filipinos can get a taste of that tradition by preparing the classic Thanksgiving dish—the roast turkey.

Marilen del Rosario Lopez has been making roast turkey with a variety of delectable stuffing for El Comedor (tels. 892-5071, 893-2518). The delightful and down-home turkey recipe has been lifted right from her mother's recipe files and has become a holiday standard for the Lopez family. She remembers that in 1993 an American airline ordered from her 160 roast turkeys to be given away to their favorite clients. Since then, with the help of daughter Tina Lopez, she has been accommodating orders for roast turkeys anytime of the year.

STEP BY STEP

In this recipe, Marilen prepares the popular roast American turkey with bread and giblet stuffing. An American turkey can be bought for P130 to P150 a kilo at Rustan's or Landmark's supermarkets. Most turkeys bought in groceries are already dressed and frozen. Just thaw it out when you get home or when you are about to use it.

The preparation for turkey is similar with that of a chicken. However, in roasting turkey, Marilen uses a meat thermometer. After about 2½ hours, start testing turkey for doneness by inserting a meat thermometer in the thickest part of the breast, away from the bone. It should register 165ºF. Alternately, insert it in the thickest part of the thigh; it should register 180ºF. The turkey should roast for some of 3½ hours.

Meanwhile, use the pan juices to make the gravy. According to Marilen, all that you need to make good gravy is the rich caramelized meat juices from the roast turkey. To make one, you will only need ½ c dry white wine, ½ c water, 5 tbsp all purpose flour, 4 c turkey stock (heated), salt and freshly ground pepper.

Just after removing the turkey from the roasting pan, skim or pour off the fat from the pan juices, reserving 3 to 4 tbsp of the fat. Add wine and the water to the remaining pan juices and place over medium heat. Bring to a boil and boil for 3 minutes, stirring with a wooden spoon to dislodge any browned bits stuck in the bottom of the pan. Strain into a bowl and set aside. Then, in a saucepan over medium heat, warm the reserved fat until it is bubbly. Add the flour and stir rapidly for a few seconds to cook the flour. Add the strained pan juices and 3½ c of the stock. Cook while rapidly stirring until smooth and thickened, for about 2 minutes. Add the remaining stock as needed to achieve the desired gravy consistency. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Pour into a warmed sauceboat and serve. Makes about 4 cups.

Estimated cost for roast turkey is P1,200-P1,400, serving about eight to 10 people. Leftover turkey can be used to prepare turkey sandwich with mayonnaise, tomatoes and lettuce.

The turkey is not only a Thanksgiving staple; it is also enjoyed on special occasions like Christmas and New Year and other festive family meals.

Ingredients:

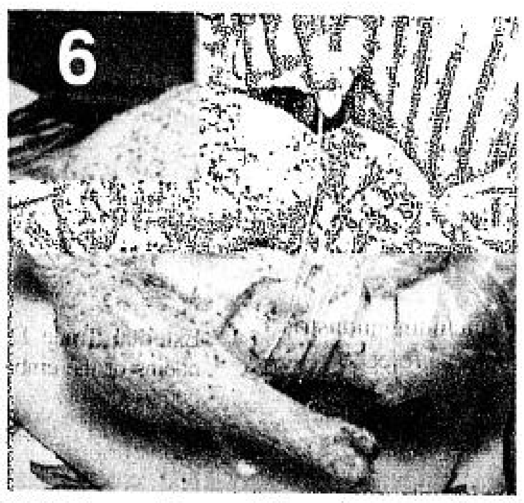
12 to14 lbs (6 to 7 kg) turkey, defrosted the day before inside the chiller or refrigerator
Salt and freshly ground pepper
6 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
White wine
Cranberry sauce
Herb mixture: 1 tsp of sage, thyme, marjoram, rosemary and salt, mix together

For stuffing:

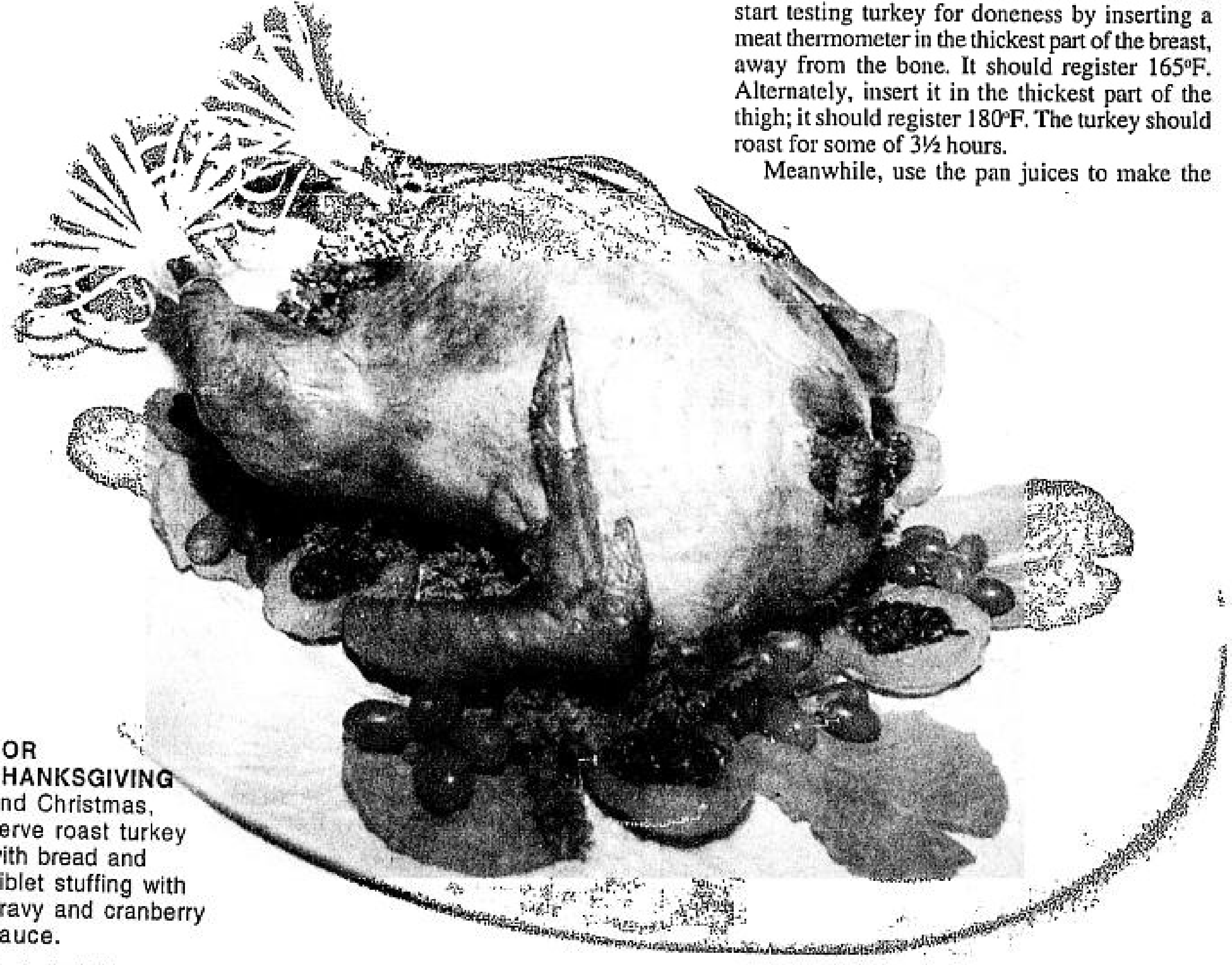
1 pc Turkey giblet, boiled, softened and chopped
2 pc Spanish *chorizo*
1 large onion, chopped
4 c coarsely ground French bread, without the crust
½ kg chestnuts, chopped (optional)
1 ½ c butter
½ c chicken broth
½ c chopped fresh parsley
2 tsp crumbled dried sage leaves
2 tsp dried thyme

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

SPOON the stuffing inside the turkey's body cavity. The stuffing should be packed in very lightly, not crammed in.

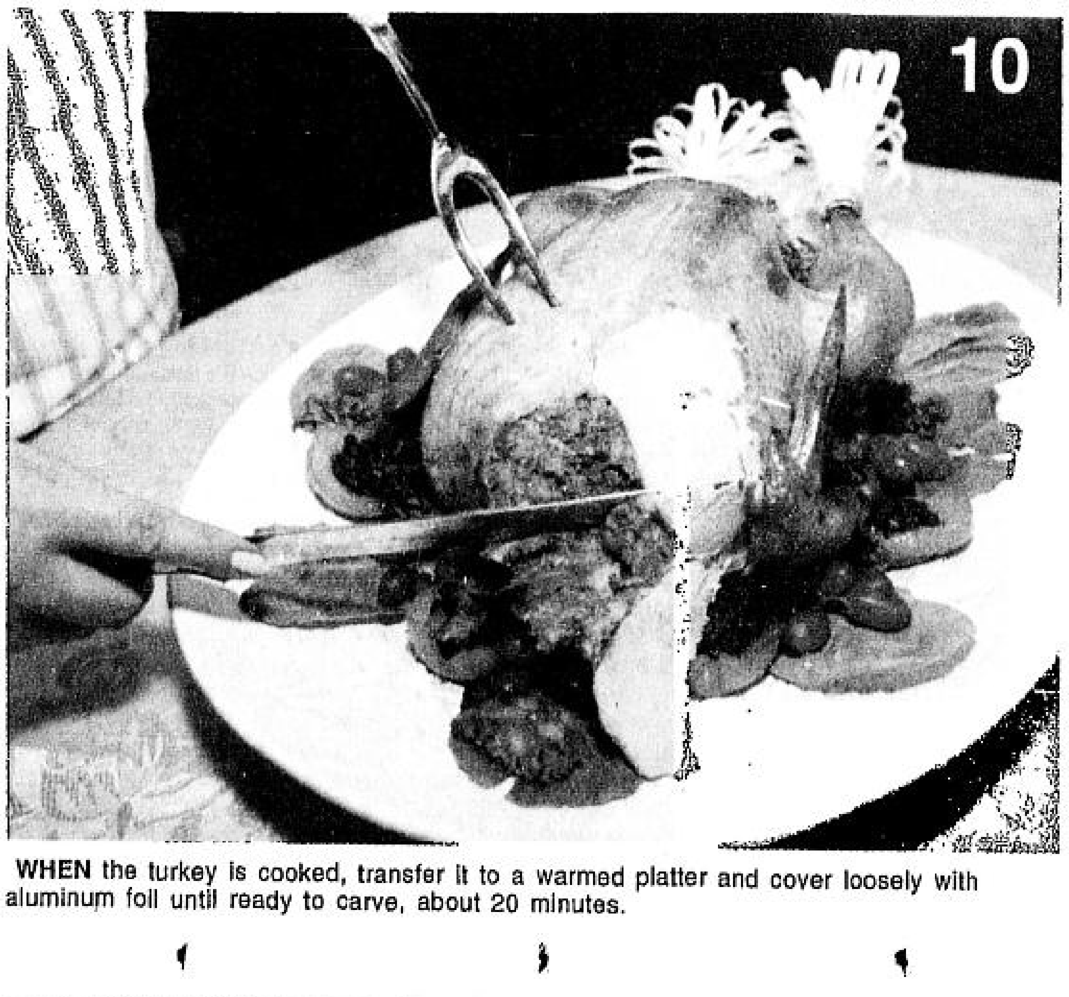


SEW the cavity so stuffing does not come out while it is roasting

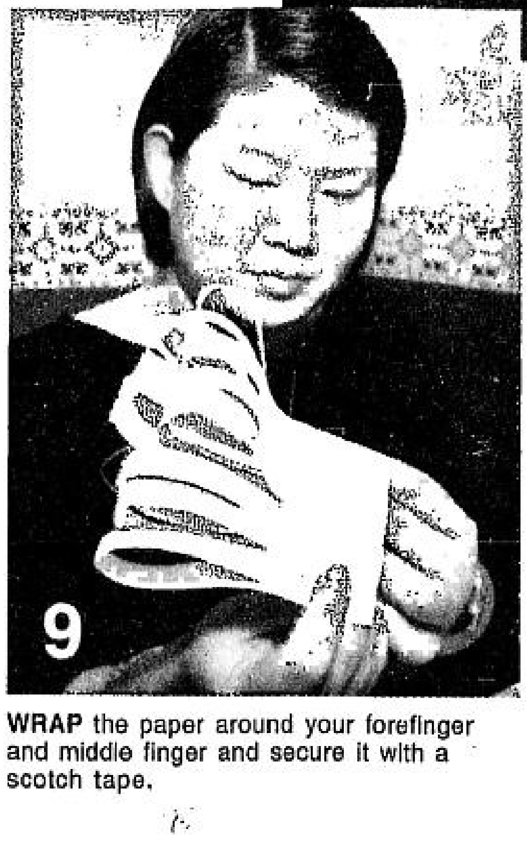


FOR THANKSGIVING and Christmas, serve roast turkey with bread and giblet stuffing with gravy and cranberry sauce.

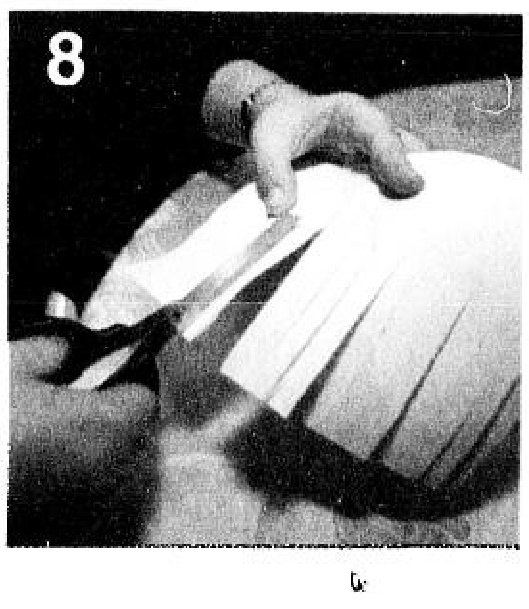
PLACE on the rack in the pan, breast side down. Roast for 40 minutes, basting with butter after 20 minutes. Reduce the heat to 325ºF, turn breast side up and continue roasting, basting with the remaining butter until used up and then with the pan juices every 15 to 20 minutes. Roast until golden brown and cooked through.



WHEN the turkey is cooked, transfer it to a warmed platter and cover loosely with aluminum foil until ready to carve, about 20 minutes.



WRAP the paper around your forefinger and middle finger and secure it with a scotch tape.



WHILE waiting for the turkey to roast, prepare the "shoe of the turkey" for better presentation. Simply get a bond paper, fold it in half, cut strips and invert the paper.

11TH PHILCONSTRUCT

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager

MESSAGES

IT IS MY DISTINCT pleasure to convey my warmest greetings to the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) as it showcases the *11th Philippine International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition and Technology Forum (PHILCONSTRUCT).*

The construction industry continues to play an important role in national infrastructure development. It is at the forefront of building physical facilities needed to motivate growth in the various sectors of the economy and attract investments. Cooperation must always characterize relations among players in the industry by building on one another's strengths. So to, we hope that the industry would zealously pursue excellence and constant innovation for it is only through adherence to these principles that our industry can move forward.

In the performance of our perpetual task of nation building, our present imperatives call for concerted efforts to sustain economic and global competitiveness. As we earnestly pursue this path and ultimately translate economic growth into improved quality of life for our people, let us be guided by our shared mission in achieving our national aspirations as an empowered nation.

On this occasion, let us be reminded that the task upon us has yet to be completed. The work starts now and lot more needs to be done. Let us keep our eyes on our goal as we continue to work with renewed commitment and dedication.

More power and *mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR warmest greetings to the Philippine Constructors Association, Inc. as you initiate the 11th PHILCONSTRUCT and TECHNOLOGY FORUM 2001 on 15-18 November 2001 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

It is heartening to note that through this annual event, the PCA has been pursuing its mission of showcasing state-of-the-art architectural and interior decoration materials, light and heavy equipment, low cost housing systems, new technologies and methodologies on equipment operation/management and quality optimization of concrete for the benefit of the local construction industry, construction-related and allied sectors, and Filipino market in general.

We congratulate the PCA for this initiative which reflects the private sector's firm commitment to come up with fresh perspectives and innovative strategies to help government in addressing the tremendous backlog in residential housing and the need for modern commercial and industrial structures including industrial estates and parks, as well as public infrastructure projects.

Indeed, the Department of Trade and Industry is one with the PCA as it rallies its member-companies towards continuously upgrading the quality of products and services of the Philippine construction sector towards achieving global competitiveness in its operation.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

30 nations in Philconstruct 2001

THE 11TH PHILCONSTRUCT opens today at the World Trade Center with some 30 nations represented in its roster of over 400 exhibitors in the buildings and construction industries.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong leads opening day rites for the PHILCONSTRUCT, which has been labelled as Southeast Asia's premier trade show for the building and construction industries. PHILCONSTRUCT is from Nov. 15 to 18, 2001 at the WTC in Pasay City.

Justo Manalo, president of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA) which organizes the annual PHILCONSTRUCT delivers the welcome address. Acknowledging guests are Jose Amado R. Angeles, president of the Association of Construction Equipment Lessors (ACEL), an organization supporting the major trade event.

The 11th PHILCONSTRUCT takes on another significant facet of the trade show's relevance as it brings together players in the building and construction industries to plot pro-active modes of conducting business in the face of current economic developments.

PHILCONSTRUCT will showcase more than 5,000 products and services, including architectural, interior decorating, engineering products, building machinery and heavy equipment, professional services for building and construction, professional services for building and construction, power tools, hardware, low-cost housing, IT-related products and services as well as research, literature and education, institutions and associations.

A total of 15 country pavilions will be a major part of the fair. Each pavilion will feature the many products and technology invented or manufactured in their countries. These will be the 20 booths under the US Commercial Service; 16 booths under the Malaysia External Trade Development, four booths of the embassy of France, 20 booths of Austrade, three booths of the Italian Trade Commission and the booths of the embassies of Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Czech Republic, Indonesia, India, Finland, and the British Embassy.

Aside from the thousands of products and technologies related to the construction industry, PHILCONSTRUCT 2001 will gather industry professionals who have made the fair a venue for its annual meetings and workshops.

A two-day Technology Forum will also be held as part of PHILCONSTRUCT. It is an outstanding opportunity to be informed by dynamic and knowledgeable speakers on current developments in the building and construction industry in the Philippines and the latest tools and technology in these fields.

THE FOUR-DAY Philconstruct offers a wide range of promotional activities for participants and guests.

It will highlight the Equipment Manager's Course which will provide participants with an overview of the decision-making process in the selection of equipment, rental and puchase, operation and administration, equipment maintenance and repairs, disposal and replacement and equipment safety.

The Information Technology Forum, on the other hand, is designed to inform the industry of the latest developments in computer software relating to the construction industry.

This year, nine associations of professionals in the construction industry endorsed the PHILCONSTRUCT as part of its activities. These associations are the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects; Metro Manila Builders and Developers Association; Construction Manpower Development Foundation, Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines; Philippine Institute of Interior Designers; Society of Philippine Electrical Contractors and Suppliers Association; Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines; Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines; and the Women in Construction.

The government recognizes PHILCONSTRUCT's role in helping the economy and has thus declared November as the Construction Month.

PHILCONSTRUCT is an annual project of the PCA, the 56-year-old organization that is the umbrella group of companies and groups working in the industry.

It is also supported by the Association of Construction Equipment Lessors (ACEL) and is organized by Convex International, a professional management group.

Philconstruct creates 'e-waves' for exhibitors

PHILCONSTRUCT trailblazes in services for its exhibitors through the web via the e-Mailer or the e-Catalogue.

This Net-powered marketing tools use the dynamic, rich-content and highly compelling e-mail technology for the benefit of PHILCONSTRUCT participants.

Recipients of e-Mailers or e-Catalogue find it easy to download these promotional materials as these are edited and converted into a compressed file, from 50 to 100 kilobytes only.

E-mailers proponent, the Index Corporation, have designed standard templates into which PHILCONSTRUCT participants can put in their company logos, product photos and other information.

Index Corp.'s Database Email Builder/Manager does the mailing for the PHILCONSTRUCT participants' target list or to the available Demographic Event List from Convex.

The e-mailers or e-Catalogue is received right into your target's email inbox within minutes.

The Index Corp. presents a promotional package for PHILCONSTRUCT participants up to November 30.

Index's product offers PHILCONSTRUCT companies the opportunity to jumpstart their e-Business.

Aside from promoting company products and services, Index also serves as builders of traditional promotional materials through the conversion of files into printed handouts, post-event direct mailers, company profile and event newsletters, among others.

Form more information, visit www.indexpacific.com or email milany@indexpacific.com or call Ms. Milany Navarro at 723-6363 or Ruby Ocfemia of Convex International at 723-8664 to 65.

11thPHILCONSTRUCT
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS EXHIBITION
and Technology Forum 2001

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FREE Admission
Students are allowed on Saturdays& Sundays Only

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E-mail: convex@mozcom.com
Website: www.convex-ph.com ● www.philconstructevent.com

MESSAGES

IN BEHALF of the general membership of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), it gives me great pride to welcome you to the 11*th PHILCONSTRUCT and Technology Forum.*

It is axiomatic that this event provides the impetus for the construction industry as we move on to a more challenging period in our global economy. This event shall amplify its role in paving the road of unlimited opportunities and an ideal venue for exchange of information.

I wish to pay tribute to the benevolent officers and dynamic leaders of the PCA, who inspired the vision to have the biggest building and construction trade show in Southeast Asia. I thank all those who have given us their support to enable us to sustain and nurture the gains achieved by our predecessors.

Mabuhay!

JUSTO E. MANALO
President
Philippine Constructor Association, Inc. (PCA)

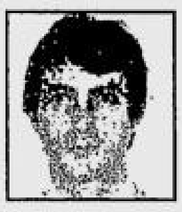
MY HEARTIEST congratulations to the Philippine Constructors Association, Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors, and Convex International for staging another successful Philippine International Construction and Building Materials Exhibition and Technology Forum or Philconstruct.

The presence of the U.S. Pavilion organized by the U.S. Commercial Service at Philconstruct demonstrates the United States' commitment to developing a strong trade relationship with the Philippines in the construction field. Furthermore, it highlights American eagerness to meet the demands of the Philippine market with the latest U.S. building products and construction equipment. I am confident that our participation at Philconstruct will provide Philippine businessess with a greater choice of construction related products.

I invite the guests of the 11th Philconstruct to visit the U.S. Pavilion. Feel free to discuss your requirements with suppliers of U.S. products who joined our Pavilion as well as with my U.S. Commercial Service Staff.

Mabuhay!

GEORGE RUFFNER
Counselor for Commercial Affairs
U.S. COMMERCIAL OFFICE
U.S. Embassy

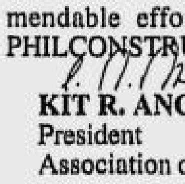


ONCE AGAIN, we are pleased to participate in this outstanding event that embodies the cooperative effort of nations in developing trade relations. We are particularly interested to join this year's show because, in the light of recent international adversity, we have to demonstrate that there atill exists countless opportunities to coordinate with each other as a global community.

Over the years, we have looked at this event with great enthusiasm as PHILCONSTRUCT provides a positive venue to showcase the latest Italian products and services in construction and building marke. We are confident that this event will fortify our business relations and strenghten the partnerships between Italy and the Philippines.

Our warmest welcome to the participants and visitors of PHILCONSTRUCT 2001 and congratulations to the Philippine Constructors Association for a job well done.

MASSIMILIANO TREMITERRA
Trade Commissioner
Italian Trade Commission



IN BEHALF of the Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors (ACEL), Inc. I would like to warmly welcome the participants and guests to the 11th Philconstruct and Technology Forum.

As we carry on the theme: "Cooperation in the Open Market", this event brings to forth a number of positive opportunities in response to the many challenges faced by the industry today. Mainly on this respect, we take pride to state that this event has indeed earned the distinction of being the "premier and most-comprehensive building and construction trade show in Southeast Asia".

Moreover, this event serves as a conduit in the government's pursuit of promoting technology transfer, enhancing knowledge and skills and developing the market for our local technology and industry. We are likewise confident that this would also provide the link for manufacturers and entrepreneurs to both local and international market to be in step with the global technologies and advancements.

We salute the Philippine Constructors Association on this commendable effort as we both look forward to a successful PHILCONSTRUCT.

KIT R. ANGELES
President
Association of Carriers and Equipment Lessors, Inc.

TECHNO FORUM SCHEDULE

November 16, 2001 (Friday) DAY ONE (1)

Title :	**" EQUIPMENT OPERATION & MANAGEMENT"**
8:00 - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION :
Topic 1 : 9:00 - 12:00 NN	RISK MANAGEMENT & BASIC RIGGING PLAN By: Mike Miller
Topic 2 : 1:30 - 4:30 PM	EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S COURSE By: Association of Carriers & Equipment Lessors, Inc. (Fiorello P. Quianzon-ACEL Past President & Panel of Experts)
Topic 3 : 4:30- 6:00 PM	EXTENDED PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE INTERVAL By: Desmond Teo- Donaldson Company
CLOSING REMARKS: 6:00-6:15 PM	By: Kit A.R. Angeles, ACEL President, J. V. Angeles Construction Corp.

NOVEMBER 17, 2001 (SATURDAY) DAY TWO (2)

Title :	**"COST & QUALITY OPTIMIZATION OF CONCRETE"**
8:00 - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION
Topic 1 : 9:00 - 10:00 AM	CONCRETE PERFORMANCE CONTROL By: Dr. Benito Pacheco - Vibrametrics, Inc.
Topic 2 : 10:30 -11:30 AM	AGGREGATES By: Felipe T. Sibal, Jr. - EEI-Philrock
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Open Forum Sponsor's Slot (Presentation)
Topic 3: 1:00-2:00 PM	ADMIXTURES By: Hedy U. Barretto -Philprime Chemical Corp.
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Open Forum
Topic 4 : 2:15 - 3:15 PM	TROUBLESHOOTING CONCRETE PROBLEMS By: Francis C. Felizardo -Union Cement
3:15 - 3:20 PM	Open Forum
Topic 5 : 3:30 - 5:00 PM	ON-SITE TESTING OF CEMENT COMPONENTS & THEIR INFLUENCE ON CEMENT FACTOR By: Hernani S. Pasion -Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc./PHILCEMCOR
5:00 - 5:15 PM	Open Forum
CLOSING REMARKS: 5:15 - 5:30 PM	By: Justo E. Manalo, PCA President, J. E. Manalo & Co., Inc

PRODUCT PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 15, THURSDAY

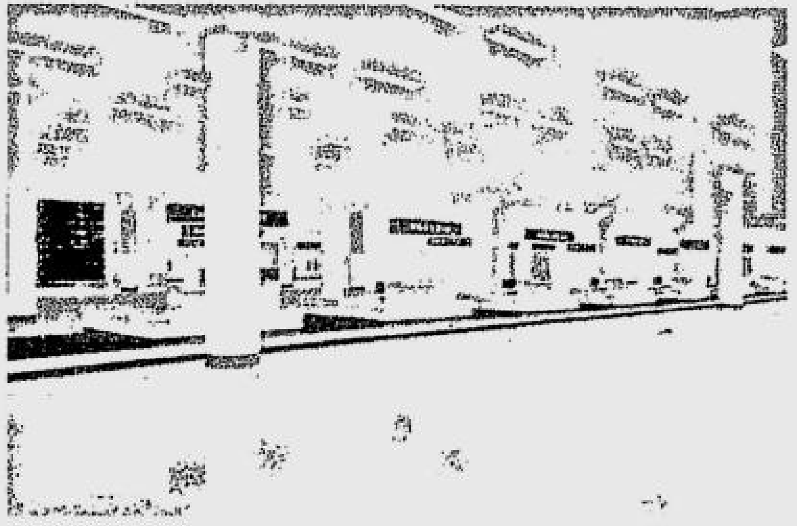
01:00-02:00 PM	Gomeco Metal Corporation *"Kitchen Solution for the Construction Industry"*
03:00-04:00	ICFOX Philippines, Inc. *"Inter-net based Applications for Construction Industry Processes"*
04:00-05:00	Sika Philippines Inc.

NOVEMBER 16, FRIDAY

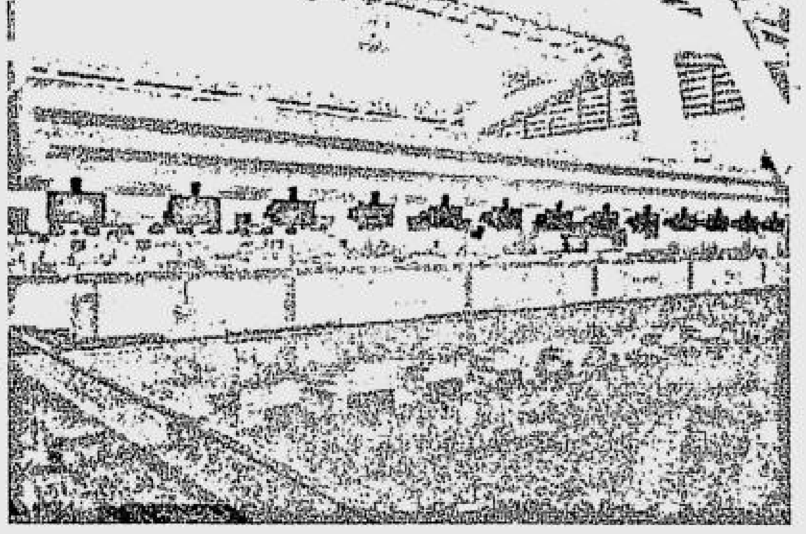
11:00-12:00 AM	Tri-Little Dragon Ceramics
01:00-02:00 PM	Decopro Inc. *"Actual Demonstration on How to Install and Apply Decopro Products"*
02:00-03:00	Global Brands
03:00-04:00	Donaldson Filtration (Asia Pacific) Pte. *"Donaldson Filtration's New Ways to Reduce Engine Maintenance Cost"*
04:00-05:00	American Technologies Inc.

NOVEMBER 17, SATURDAY

11:00-12:00 AM	Habitat for Humanity Phils. *"Per Square Meter"*
01:00-02:00 PM	Pozzolanic Phil. Inc.
02:00-03:00	Penta-Isles, Inc. *"Titan Airless Spray Painting Demo"*
03:00-04:00	Solar Gard Phils Corp
04:00-05:00	Scaffold Tech Services Corporation *"Polyshield SS-100: State of the Art Waterproofing Coatings"*
05:00-06:00	Taytan International Corporation



NAIA3 can handle 13 million passengers annually, with its 118 immigration counters, 140 check-in counters, 314 information display monitors, 29 elevators, 20 escalators, 9 moving walkways, 15 baggage carousels, a 20,000 sqm. Shopping center, other retail areas that cover 14,000 sqm. All these within a 182,000 sqm main terminal building.



NAIA 3 props up construction, tourism sectors

ALMOST 60 percent complete, the benefits of the new international passenger terminal of the NAIA has already been felt in the construction and tourism sectors.

Adjudged as Southeast Asia's biggest construction venture for the period, the NAIA 3 project has been listed by the Department of Trade's Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) as one of the industry's bright spots during the first half of 2001.

At the same time, tourism industry leaders have cast their sights at the projected opening of the NAIA 3 on Dec, 2, 2002, saying that the new terminal puts the Philippines in much better shape to attract foreign visitors.

The CIAP report said that construction demand in the first semester of this year rose by 1.6 percent in contrast to the 4.5 percent decline during the same period last year. The is attributed to a 4.3 percent increase in public construction as a result of the release in government funds for capital expenditure and the increased inflow from foreign and local investments for build-operate-transfer projects like the NAIA 3.

Perry Alegre, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association, noted that that the NAIA 3 project demonstrate the effectiveness of Build-Operate-Transfer schemes to attract investments in our country for much-needed infrastructure.

Rose Libongco, president of the Hotel Sales and Marketing Association (HSMA), said that the accommodation sector of tourism "most welcome the construction of the new terminal as it will surely excite the international meetings and conventions industry practitioners."

The HSMA recently listened to a presentation by the NAIA 3 constructor and operator, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.(PIATCO), on the state-of-the-art features and facilities of the project.

Libongco said that when the MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibits industry) market patronizes a particular destination, it also causes the attraction of individual tourists to that destination.

The NAIA 3 is a $550 million project which involves foreign companies led by FRAPort Main AG, the owner and operator of the Frankfurt International Airport, Europe's second busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic and its biggest, in terms of cargo handling.

Intelligent building with TeleEye launched in Philconstruct 2001

TODAY's builders may incorporate in their design the latest security and monitoring system provided by. TeleEye that will give their clients the ability to monitor their property even when they are not there. MicroServe Computers Co. will proudly launch TeleEye III, the third generation remote phoneline CCTV system at the Philconstruct 2001 exhibits this Nov. 15 to 18 at Booth L, IT Pavillion, World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The perfect tool for today's modern manager and business owners to keep an eye on their business even whey they are not physically there.

TeleEye III, provides the perfect video monitoring solution for business and property management and security applications. Video can be transmitted over regular phone lines (PSTN) or through ISDN, leased line, cellular network, LAN, WAN and Internet for remote video transmission. With TeleEye III, you can monitor your property and manage your remote business by simply making a telephone call.

At any time of the day, you can dial in to your businesses, branches, warehouses, residence or factories and see live video of all that is happening there. Live video can be transmitted over a telephone line from cameras located in remote commercial or residential buildings to your PC at your office or notebook computer.

TeleEye III is now enhanced to handle local video monitoring within the premises and broadcast these video over LAN. With our major breakthrough in image compression technology, TeleEye III can achieve image refreshing rate of 30 fps in a local area network (LAN). Also, it has built-in RJ – 45 interface for direct connection to a 10/100 Base-T network. Live videos can easily be fed into your existing computer network of the building.

You may access the real time vide of the cameras located at the entrance, car park, garden and reception or play back the recorded videos through the computer network anytime.

Other breathtaking features include digital video recording, alarm dial-back, pre and post-alarm video recording, telemetry control and audio transmission. As video is recorded in digital format, it enables the playback search by location, date, time and alarm parameters to allow quick retrieval of pictures.

Moreover, alarm sensors like PIR monitor sensors, magnetic door contacts, smoke detectors can be connected to TeleEye III for security applications. When there is an alarm event, it will dial back to the computer in the security center of the building with alarm sound and record the instant video into the computer hard disk.

Relay switches can be connected to TeleEye III for controlling the light operations, entrance doors or even fountain in the garden. It can work seamlessly with other CCTV and telemetry equipment including Pelco, Dedicated Micros, BBV and VCL. With pan/tilt/zoom camera control unit, you can also control the panning, tilting, zooming, focusing, iris of the camera and also the washer and wiper for outdoor housing.

Many companies have already employed this system to carry out management functions and maintain security for their residential, office and industrial building.

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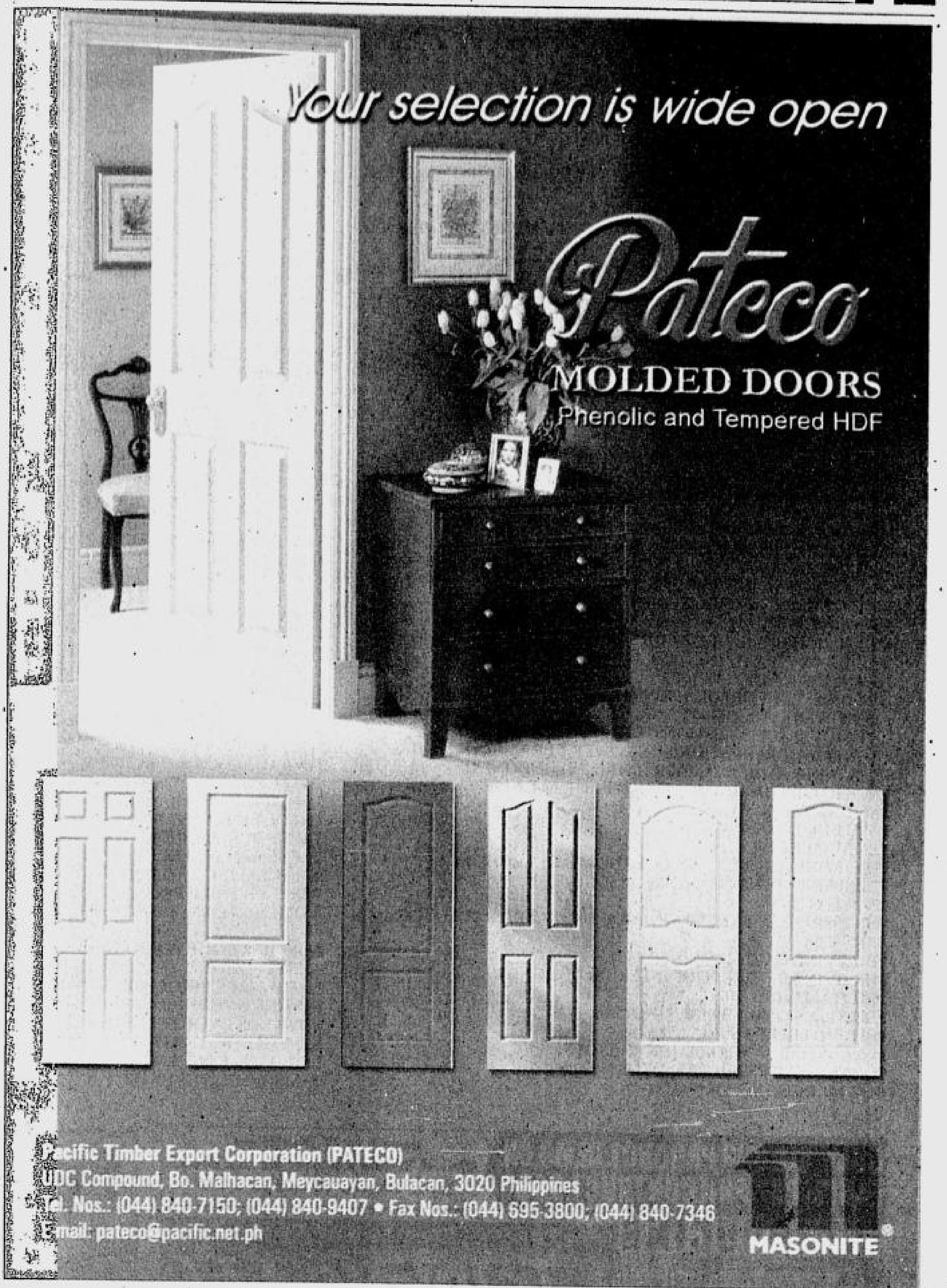
11th PHILCONSTRUCT list of exhibitors

COMPANY NAME
A.V.D. MARKETING CORP (Booth 443)
ACECAD SOFTWARE (603)
ACEG STEEL PRODUCTS, INC. (407)
ADCO BLUE CONSTRUCTION & TRADING CORP. (638)
ALENSON TRADE CORP. (740)
ALLGEMEINE-BAU-CHEMIE PHIL., INC. (742)
ALUFORM INDUSTRIES, INC. (A31, A40)
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC./LATTICE NETWORKS INC (605)
ANDERSON ASPHALT (HONGKONG) (345)
ANYTHING ENTERPRISES (A3)
AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CORP (433, 434)
ARTLIGHT EXPRESS (411)
ASIA INDUSTRIES MATERIAL HANDLING EQPMNT (215)
ASIACO ENT. INT'L. CORP. (642)
ASSOCIATION OF CARRIERS & EQUIPMENT LESSORS, INC (ACEL) (331, 332)
ASTRAL POOL INTERNATIONAL (SPAIN) (431, 432)
ATLANTA INDUSTRIES (539)
AUTOMATION & SECURITY INC. (315, 316, 329, 330)
BJC ENTERPRISES PTY LTD (337)
BISAZZA (540)
BLUPRINT MAGAZINE (P3)
CICG INTERNATIONAL TRADE CORPORATION (737)
CAMP MKTG & DEV'T. INC. (502, 543)
CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS. (A13)
CENTURY CHEMICAL (505, 506)
CHARTER CHEMICAL CORPORATION (444)
CITIZEN'S MASS MEDIA (Q)
CIVIC MERCHANDISING (307, 338)
COFTA MOULDING CORPORATION (404, 405)
COLEMAN ASIA (410, 435)
COLENT ENTERPRISE COMPANY (243)
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (313)
CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CMDF) (428)
CONSTRUCTION TODAY NEWSPAPER (P11)
COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS OF THE PHILIPPINES (CECOPHIL) (203)
DAEDONG URETHANE, INC (437)
DN STEEL GROUP OF COMPANIES (419, 420)
DTI-BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS (204)
DURALCO INC. (500, 545)
EEI CORPORATION (200)
EYP.PH CORPORATION (417)
EASTERN WIRE MANUFACTURING INC (639)
ELEKTROWERK, INC (640, 641)
EMERALD VINYL CORP (507, 538)
ENGELHART MFG. CORP (706)
ERGONOMIC SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC (300, 301)
ETERTON MULTI-RESOURCES CORP (709)
FW NICOL PHILIPPINES INC (212, 233)
FAIRE INTERNATIONAL TRADER (741)
FELPORT INTERNATIONAL MARKETING (636)
FEON INTERIORS (738)
FIBERLITE INC (508)
FIVE STOREYS INC. (P9, P10)
FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC -TRADING DIVISION (426)
FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC (425)
FOREST HOME DEPOT (537)
FREYSSINET (A3)
GLOBAL BRANDS CO. INC. (714, 731)
GLOBAL PRODUCTS (P6, P7, P8)
GOMECO METAL CORP/MULTI MACH INTL (733, 734)

PHILCONSTRUCT/ E8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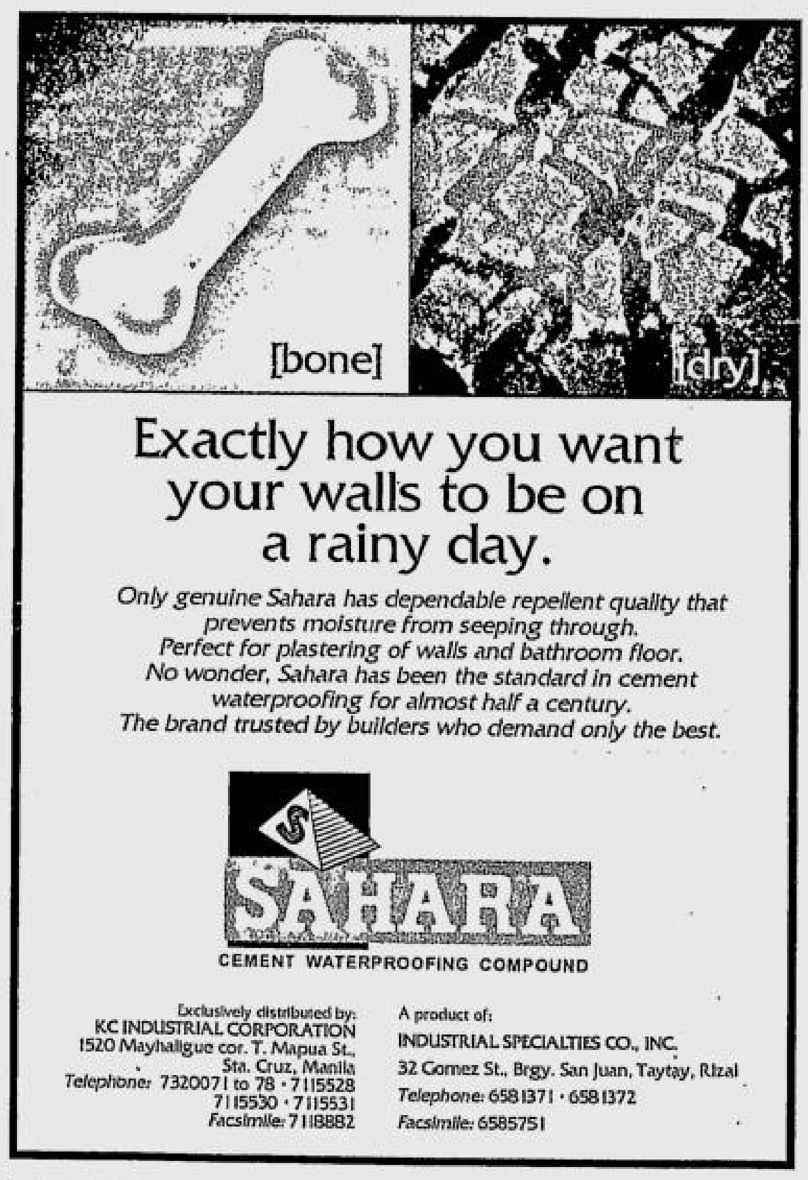
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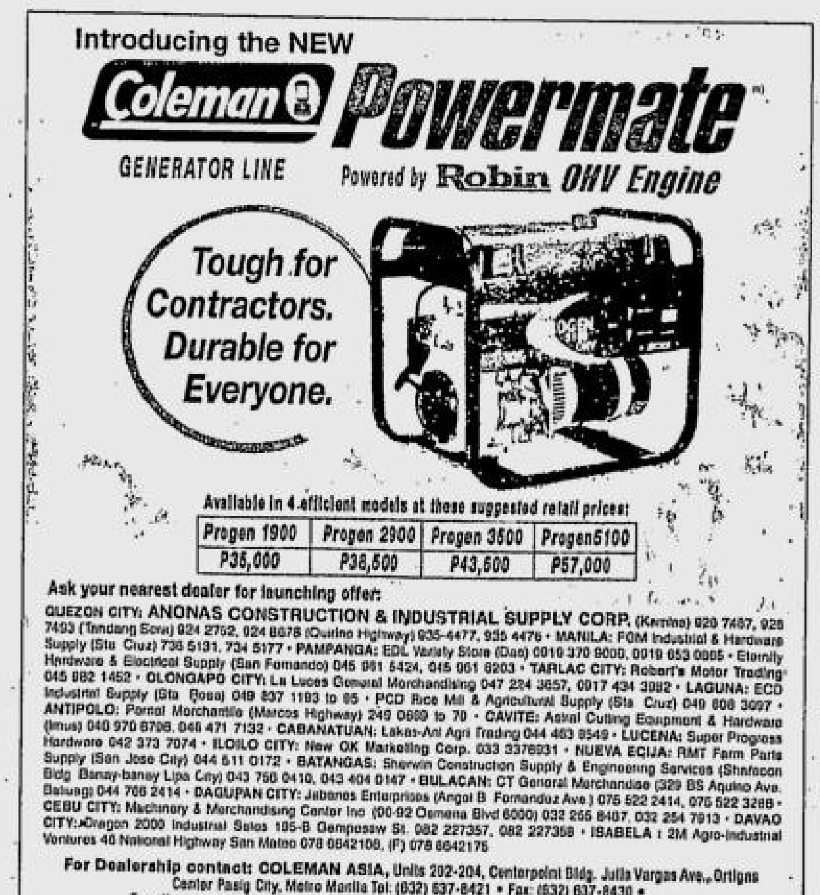
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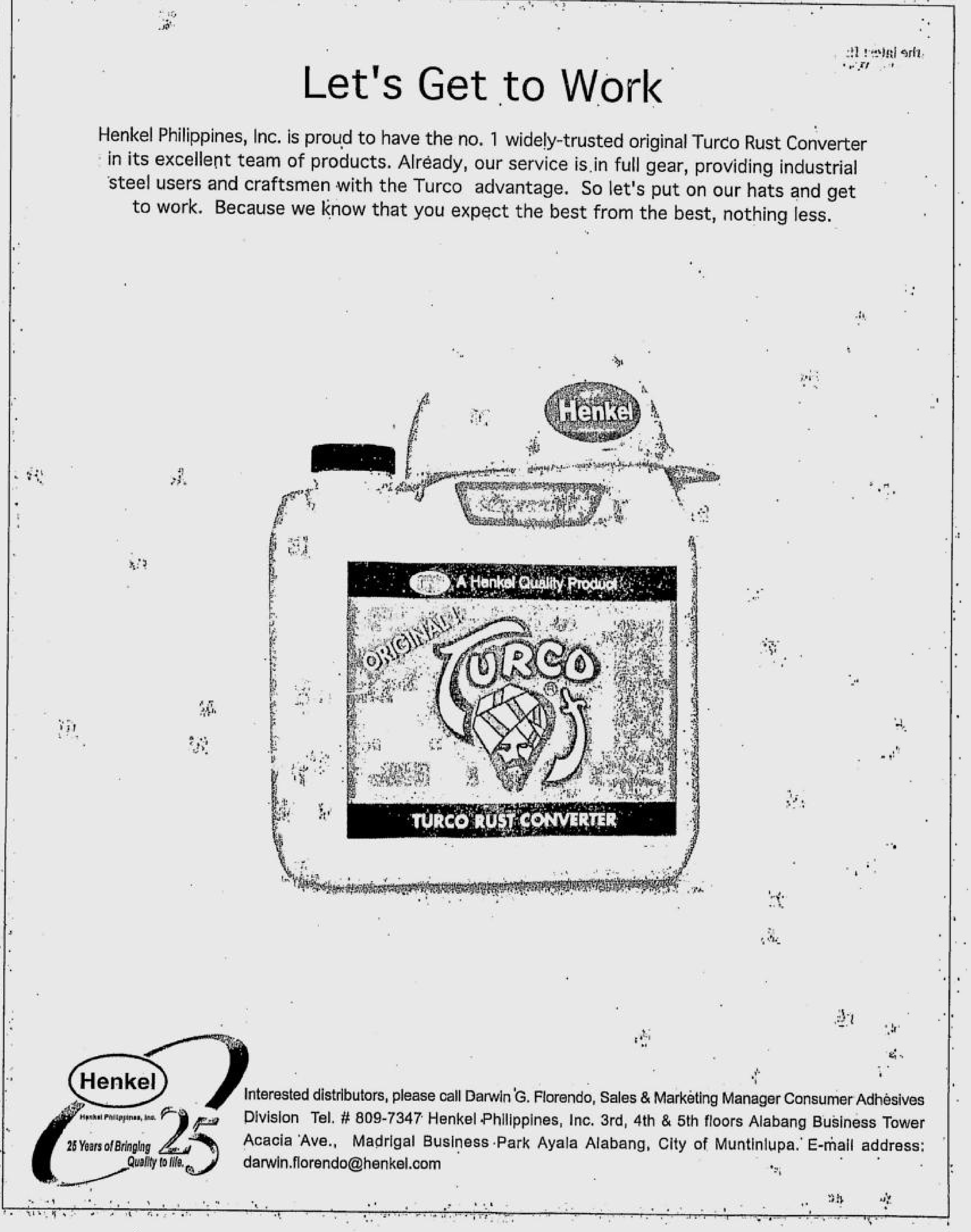
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11th PHILCONSTRUCT list of exhibitors . . .

(From page E7)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILS FOUNDATION, INC (205)
HAFELE PHILIPPINES, INC. (427)
HANDYWARE PHILIPPINES, INC/COLUMBIA MACHINE INC. (544)
HIGH RISE PUBLICATION (P2)
HOME IDEAS (O)
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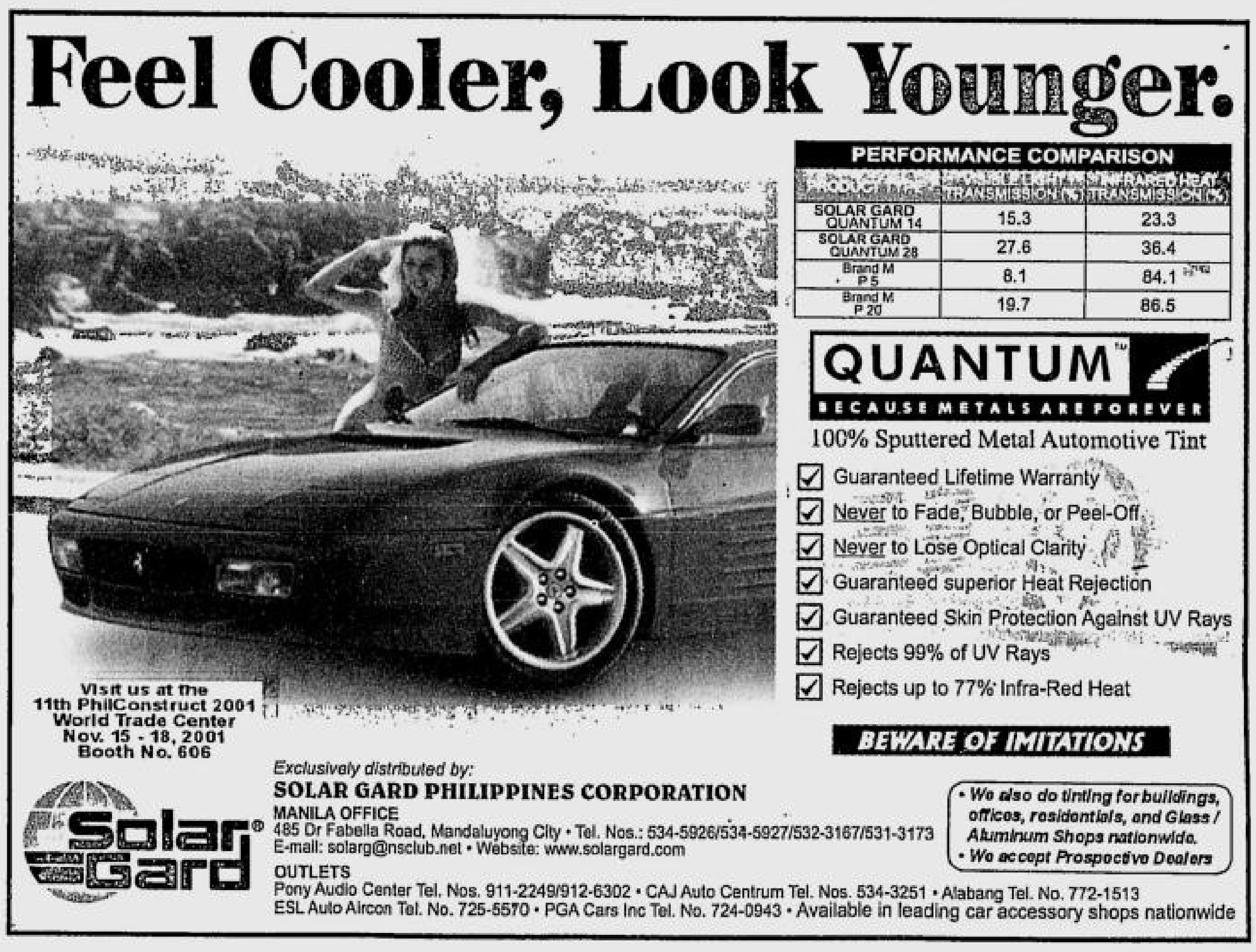
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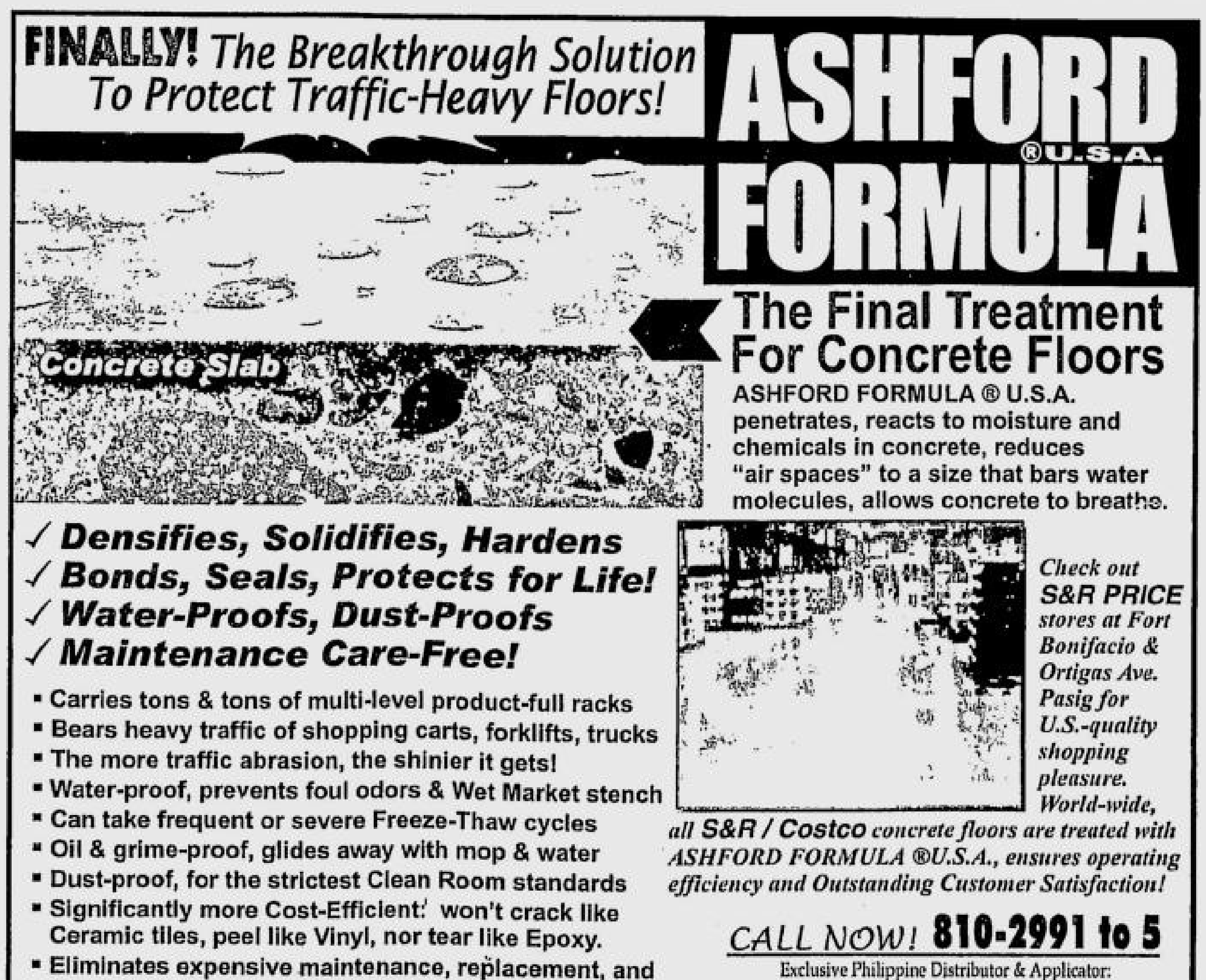
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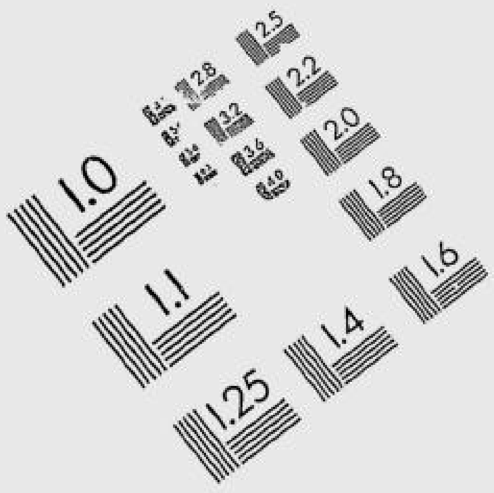
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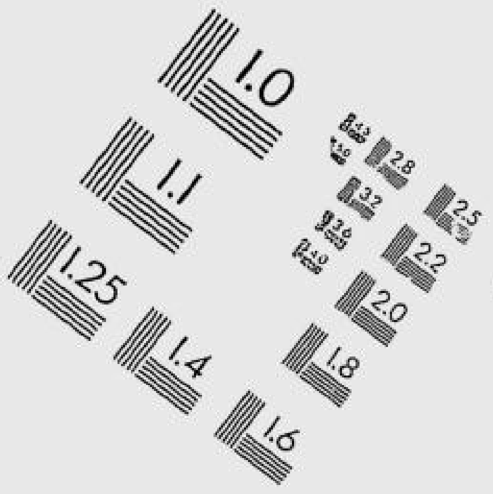
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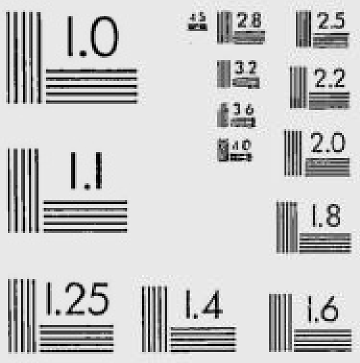
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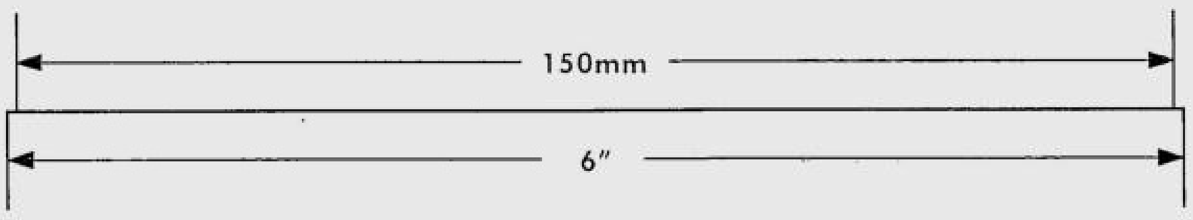

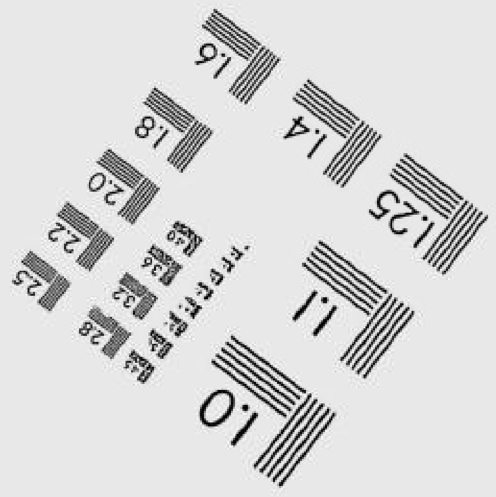
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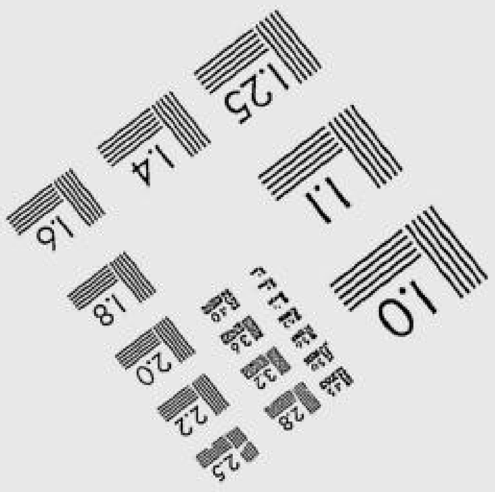
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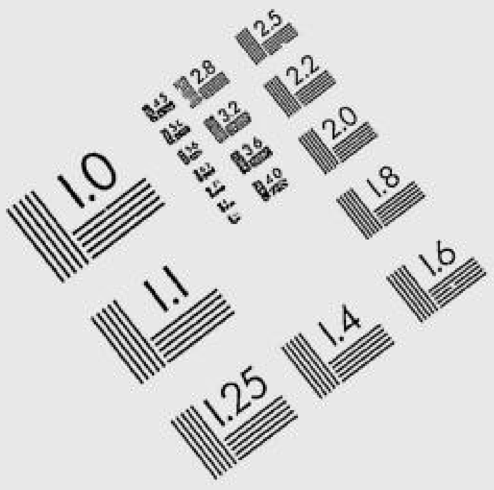
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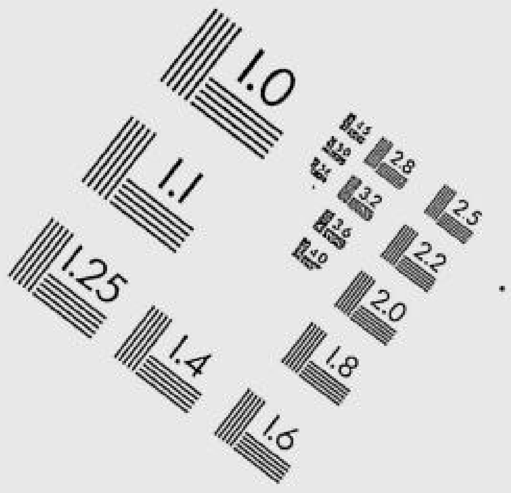
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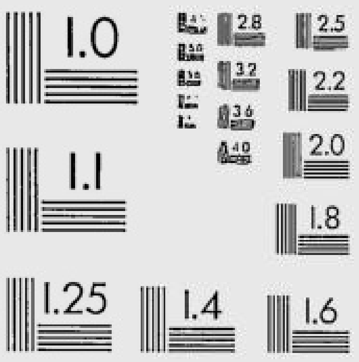
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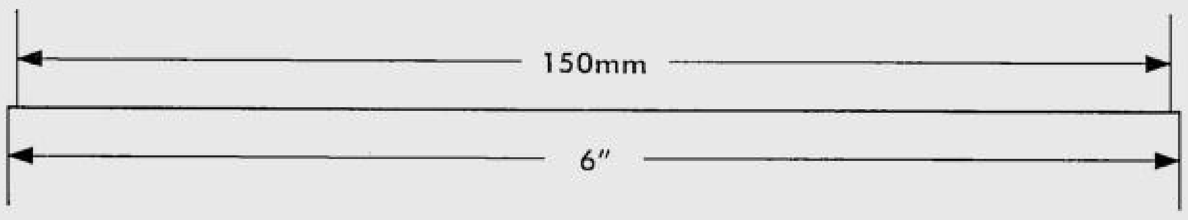

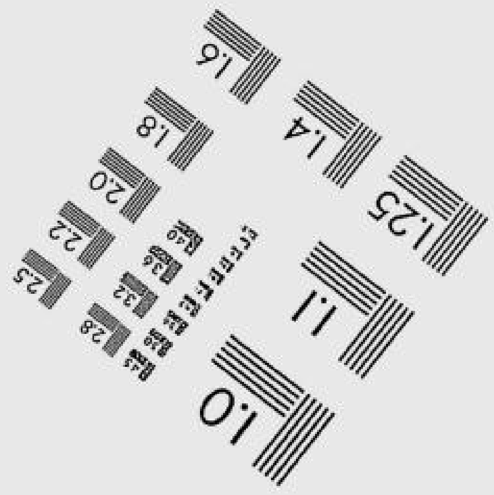
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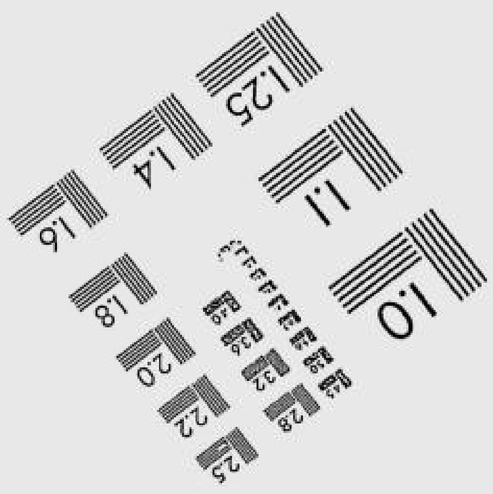
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